

Photo. No.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Records No.

SA-9932

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL CENSORSHIP**For use in the case of Registered Letters  
(If unregistered, insert "NONE")

Registered No.

NONE

Serial No.

AIR

Mail No.

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM—

KATZ, OTTO  
CHAMILPA 9 BIS  
CUERNAVACA (MORELOS)  
MEXICO

To—

KURT ROSENFELD  
305 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK CITYDate of letter  
(or postmark  
if letter undated)

5-10-42

5-11-42

PREVIOUS RECORDS, IF RELEVANT

Nos. SA-6005  
SA-7572  
SA-7202  
TOLEDANO 635,111,547For interoffice use by A. C.  
or D. A. C. only.

Allocation of this comment sheet:

CPC  
CDR

Whether to be photographed—

If so, to whom photograph is to be sent—

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL LETTER—

Released, held, condemned  
or sent with comment to—

RELEASED

**COMMENT****POLITICAL****ENGLISH**

Writer instructs addressee and THEODORE DRAPER to decide what is best and not wait for further instructions from him.

ENCLOSURE: Letter to OSMOND FRAENKEL, 76 BEAVER STREET, NEW YORK

Writer expresses his gratitude to addressee for his interest in writer's case, and states he can prove that libelous statements of the "NATION" are false from beginning to end. If necessary, writer can put up witnesses as far as his activities in MEXICO go.

Writer hopes addressee has definitely accepted to represent him.

**EXAMINER'S NOTE:**

1. LOMBARDO TOLEDANO is head of C.T.M. (CONFEDERACION de TRABAJADORES MEXICANOS) and president of UNIVERSIDAD OBRERA MEXICANA.

2. FREDERICK KIRCHMEYER editor of the "NATION."

3. GUSTAV REGIER has been described as leader of NAZI Fifth column in LATIN-AMERICA.

4. BABETTE GROSS is a former refugee and active in VISA and advertising business.

5. OTTO KATZ also uses name ANDRE SIMONE.

A/AC-12106  
5-13-42Division  
(or section)

TABLE

EXAMINER

D. A. C.

DATE

SPECIAL 1  
EXAMINER

12010

2075

5-13-42

nr: 5-13-42

NC Form No. 3  
December 12, 1941

173A/2

(275)



L88657

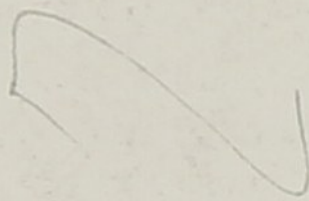




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COMMENT

POLITICAL

ENGLISH

Writer thanks addressee for trouble he and THEODORE DRAPER are taking in his behalf; and gives his opinion as follows:

1. He thinks FRAENKEL'S letter is alright.
  2. Writer does not care to undertake libel suit unless there are no costs involved. Although he has friends in the U.S. who could put up money, writer feels they need it for other things.
  3. If NATION refuses FRAENKEL'S request, writer thinks there is another possibility to solve the problem without special costs. Writer states there can be only three reasons why NATION refuses to print his answer:
    - a. NATION does not want to admit it is wrong. Writer believes this is real reason for the refusal and is the weak spot in NATION'S defenses.
    - b. EDITORS of NATION may think they have enough material from REGLER'S side to keep writer quiet; and writer thinks that possibly REGLER and BARBETTE GROSS have furnished NATION with another pack of lies.
    - c. Writer does not think NATION really believes what it has published is true, after LOMBARDO TOLEDANO'S protest and writer's reply; but thinks NATION is trying a sort of blackmail.
- If NATION refuses to print his reply, writer will propose to them to submit the case to a committee of newspaper men, composed of one man chosen by writer, one by NATION and an impartial chairman to be chosen by these two.
- Writer and FREDA KIRCHMEY would accept findings of committee as final and KIRCHMEY would have to publish them.

REGLER is circulating NATION article with his own among JEWISH refugees who are always ready to take a stand against people of writer's opinion. Writer thinks it is high time that REGLER'S fifth column activities be completely exposed.

Division  
(or section)

TABLE

(one of two pages)  
EXAMINER

D. A. C.

DATE

SPECIAL  
EXAMINER

12010

2075

5-13-42

hr: 5-13-42

3427

NC Form No. 8  
December 12, 1941

173A/1/10

(275)



339a

COPY

P.G.C. R.4. For: P.F. 41664 O. KATZ.

Original in: 411/Germany/4. 29a.

COPY FILED IN:- P.F. 44497 (Dr. Leopold KATZ)

**SECRET**

S.F.411/Germany/4/P.2b/MJB.

8th May, 1942.

Dear

I attach a copy of a comment by the  
 U.S.A. Censors on a letter, dated 12.2.42, from  
 Edna PHILLIPS, 50 West 9th Street, New York, to  
 Pedro GONZALES, Manchester 8, Mexico. D.F.

We have no trace of the writer or  
 of Vera BAAR, and are unable to identify Pedro  
 GONZALES.

Ida STERN may be identical with an  
 American citizen of that name who left Harwich for  
 Leningrad on 12.7.37 and was then said to be aged 27.

According to our records, Leopold  
 KATZ, brother of Otto KATZ, was born in Jitsenai  
 in 1891. We have no further information about Otto's  
 brother but it is tempting to identify the man  
 mentioned in the Censors Comment with Dr. Leopold  
 KATZ, born Ujfalva, Hungary, on 5.11.89 who has been  
 the subject of correspondence between us ending with  
 your dated 19.3.37, and our S.F.416/23  
 dated 26.6.40. We also have a record of a certain  
 Leo KATZ of 41, West 184th Street, Bronx, New York  
 who, in March 1941, was the addressee of a copy of  
 'In Fact'. Would it be possible for you to find out  
 whether Leopold KATZ, who was born in 1891 and is  
 the brother of Otto KATZ, is living in Mexico?

Yours sincerely,

(s.d) H. J. E. Bagot  
 H. J. E. Bagot.

S.I.S.,

THIS IS A COPY  
 ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
 IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
 ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



339a

P.F. 41664 Katz, O

COPY

M.G.C. R.4.

For:

Original in: S.F. 411/Germany/4. 20b.

AVT.  
8.4.42.

CONFIDENTIAL

Records No. SA-624.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL CENSORSHIP

no b

L 76298

Air.

From:-

Edna Phillips, X

50 West 9 Street,  
New York, N.Y. X

To:-

Pedro Gonzalez, X

Manchester 8,  
Mexico, D.F.

Date of letter.

February 12, 1942.

SUBMITTED TO:-  
M.I.5. X

9 APR 1942

FRENCH.

COMMENT.

POLITICAL.

This time again, this shall be a short letter. I have something of interest to tell you. - Annie's doctor offered to send something for her by means of a friend, a teacher who leaves for Mexico next Sunday. She has had the package sent. At the last minute, she had the idea to inform herself more fully on the subject of this friend, and here is what she learned.

--This lady, VERA BAAR, is going to MEXICO CITY with a friend, IDA STERN, MADAM BAAR is not only a STALINIST but she also carries a letter of introduction to the brother of OTTO KATZ, LEO KATZ, at MEXICO CITY! I must therefore warn you against this lady who will have dealings with the friend (masculine) of the doctor who gave her the address.

I wish to stress that the doctor is entirely innocent; he wished to be kind; she also is equally innocent, but does not know for what she is going to be utilized.

If this letter does not get to you, it is certain that it has been snatched by individuals to whose interest it is to keep this voyage a secret. But my friends will have means to inform the interested ones!

REST OF LETTER IRRELEVANT TO O. KATZ. and L. KATZ.

✓  
P. 17.  
21-5-42



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

R2 f 337a

From.....F.2b/MJEB.....

To.....~~E.1a~~ (French Section).....

On 4.4.41 the Press Section informed Major Younger that the author of 'J'accuse' was reputed to be Otto KATZ, the Russian agent and member of the G.P.U. who formerly lived in Paris but was at that time in New York. Frank OWEN, who wrote the forward to the English edition, was said to be uncertain of the author's identity. Mrs. Pitt, in passing this report to me, asked that if I followed this up and found it correct, I should let her know.

I do not know whether you are still interested in the matter, but the above information is presumably correct as I have been informed

Date.....24.12.41.....

Signature.....L. JE. Bagor.....

1.44  
8.1.42  
P.T.O.  
27/1/53



by S.I.S., that Otto KATZ, who is living in Mexico City, uses the alias of André SIMON.

*W. J. E. Bagge.*

*Seen, thank you*

*27:12:41.*

*C. A. V. Beaumont.*

*Ela (7)*

IS802) Wt. 3306/8429 50,000 7/41 A. & E. W. Ltd. Gp. 698 J. 5444



*MAR 4 1942* POSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP. *3387*  
P.C. 72. *no carding*  
TERMINAL MAIL (Katz) SUBMISSION No. SE/PO/12841/42  
MEB. 4.5.42. Air ~~Surface~~ Date *28/4/42*

From MARCEAU PIVERT,  
Address CALLE DEL NAZAS 169,  
or postmark MEXICO D F

To FENNER BROCKWAY,  
318, REGENTS PARK ROAD,  
LONDON, N.3.

Date of letter or postmark UNINTELLIGIBLE

Language FRENCH

ORIGINAL LETTER (State whether  
Submitted, Photographed, Retained,  
Released or Returned to Sender).

PHOTOGRAPHED  
RELEASED

SUBMITTED TO:

COMMENT MI5 with Photostat  
INF "  
BBC "  
ISRB "  
WH "  
SE(2) with 2 "

Seen by: Naval Adviser

Air Adviser

M.I.12.

Posting Unit	Section	Examiner	for D.A.C. D.Y.P.	Date
LONDON	SE 4th Fl.	539		29.4.42.

SUBJECT. (Include necessary references to Watch Lists, with Authority requiring the Watch.)

- (A) STALINIST INTRIGUES IN MEXICO
- (B) RENEWED WORK IN FRANCE AND SPAIN FOR THE PSOP AND POUM
- (C) PUBLICATION IN BARCELONA OF WEEKLY ANTIFASCIST PAPER.
- (D) POUM IN MEXICO ASK FOR AMERICAN HELP FOR A COMMON FRONT.  
TO OVERTHROW PRESENT REGIME IN SPAIN
- (E) UNITY OF AIM BETWEEN PIVERT AND BROCKWAY (ILP) IN ENGLAND.
- (F) INCIDENTS IN MOROCCO AND ITALY.

Photostat attached.

P.C.11 enclosed.

(I.R.B. Please photostat whole letter)

*(10) RB*  
*27/4/42*  
*PMH*  
*F2B*  
*28/4/42*



FOR MINISTRIES ONLY  
Recommendation for Disposal of Letter and Reason.

FOR CENSORSHIP INTERNAL ACTION

Letter Condemned

Returned to Sender

Released

(10070D) Wt 35236/T264 500m 11/41 H J R & L Gp 745



338

2/ semblances populaires, mariages, baptêmes, fêtes commerciales, etc.. pour diffuser leur propagande, et parfois même des défilés fascistes... Le Poum développe l'idée et l'action de défaitisme politique contre le franquisme espagnol et le totalitarisme européen, le pan-imperialisme espagnol, l'asservissement du pays à Hitler et Mussolini, l'incapacité de Franco dans la solution des problèmes économiques les plus urgents, l'oppression des régions catalane, basque, galicienne; la corruption des fonctionnaires franquistes, la compétition entre les différents secteurs politiques qui soutiennent le franquisme: phalange, requêtes, monarchistes, cléricaux. Il procède par infiltration de tous les organismes d'administration publique, syndicats, police, cadres de la Phalange, même... et pratique un sabotage coordonné très efficace. Il préconise la formation d'un large front unique ayant pour objectif le renversement du régime. La délégation du POUM à Mex. a demandé aux militants américains de venir en aide à ce travail, qui, du point de vue financier, pourrait être bien plus efficace encore. C'est le problème de tous les mouvements clandestins, et cela comporte la solidarité avec les emprisonnés et leurs familles, la possibilité de se déplacer, de se procurer une documentation appropriée... etc..

Malheureusement, c'est surtout cet aspect qui n'est pas brillant. Nous vous parlons de cela, mon cher ami, par ce que vous devez mesurer ainsi le niveau de dévouement des camarades qui "tiennent" alors que le nécessaire leur manque. Mais vous avez vos propres exigences et vous devez consacrer toutes vos ressources à votre propre mouvement qui nous paraît DÉCISIF... surtout ces jours-ci, avec la nouvelle situation qui va résulter du retour de Sr Stafford...

De notre côté, nous pouvons fort peu, presque rien, mais au moins, nous devons échanger des informations. Cet effort me paraît de plus en plus correspondre aux désirs et aux besoins de nos amis en Europe.. La seule question qui est posée, mais elle est à mes yeux fondamentale, est de savoir si les formes mêmes d'organisation que nous avons envisagées doivent être maintenues, ou si nous devons penser dès maintenant à autre chose. Je me ferai un devoir de communiquer votre opinion à mes amis, et personnellement je ferai ce que vous me suggérerez, mon opinion étant assez facile à résumer: je ne vois aucune raison de modifier quoi que ce soit. Mais il suffit que la question ait été posée entre nous pour que j'éprouve le besoin de connaître votre sentiment. La marche même des événements a donné à votre opinion un poids spécifique considérable. D'où mon intention d'en tenir compte car je sais, par la lecture du ML qu'aucun problème politique fondamental n'est en question entre nous. J'approuve à 100% votre activité. Je suis heureux de dire cela en même temps au nom de mes amis de France. J'aurais voulu être capable de vous aider beaucoup mieux... c'est matériellement impossible. Notre vie est précaire... et les charges de famille comptent à présent... Mais lorsque je le pourrai, je vous enverrai des nouvelles détaillées comme autrefois. La seule chose qui peut être en discussion est la manière de présenter ces nouvelles. Et aussi la confirmation ou non du mandat qui avait été défini entre nous... Un mot de vous m'aiderait à faire le point à ce sujet. Je ne le sollicite que par un scrupule que vous comprendrez: je n'ai aucune autre ambition que de servir de mon mieux d'intermédiaire entre mes amis et vous, et tous les autres qui s'intéressent à nous...

Je vous enverrai sans doute encore quelque article... ce ne sont ni les faits à méditer, ni les réflexions qui manquent... c'est souvent la difficulté de les exprimer. Mais vous devez considérer cela au mieux de vos propres besoins. Si cela date un peu trop, laissez-le. Si cela va pour vos publications, bien. Si quelque autre revue peut les prendre, soit... Nous n'avons toujours pas reçu votre manuscrit... et je le déplore d'autant plus que J. a du, à la suite de cette campagne, démissionner de ses fonctions de directeur technique des éditions. Mais nous essayerions néanmoins de faire paraître ici votre livre si nous le recevions. (J'attendais moi-même une nomination officielle... et je pense que la campagne contre nous a provoqué l'ajournement de la décision)

Nous sommes d'accord avec vous, mon cher Ferner, sur la somme croissante des souffrances et des destructions qui caractérise notre malheureuse époque, mais aussi comme vous, nous prenons notre part, après tout bien légère, en ayant la certitude que nous pouvons contribuer, même modestement à faire en sorte que ces souffrances et ces destructions soient compensées par une grande espérance, une espérance tout à fait digne des plus douloureux sacrifices.

Croyez, vous et John, et tous les amis, à notre fraternité affectueuse et dévouée

Bien à vous

*Maurice*

2614/2

*En mains votre lettre du 21 mars*

En Italie, la mère de Berneri est condamnée à un an de détention forcée... sur le sujet de leur conversation: comme les dépositions ne concordent pas, on les arrête... En France: deux militants parlant sur un micro: on les arrête, on les interroge séparément...



M.P. Calle del Nazas, 169, Mexico D.F.  
 Mon très cher ami,

Je vous rassurerai immédiatement: nos familles sont arrivées et celle de Julian va arriver dans quelques jours. C'est déjà une grande chose. La seconde nouvelle est qu'il semble bien que la GPU n'a pas reçu l'ordre de nous exécuter, car à présent que l'opinion américaine s'est magnifiquement alertée, l'opération serait certainement déficitaire, au point de vue politique. Comme quoi nous devons nous réjouir de l'importance que prend un mouvement d'opinion à certaines heures, et dans les pays où c'est encore possible. Nulle doute qu'il en sera de même en Angleterre et dans la mesure où vos initiatives contribueront à renforcer notre temporaire sécurité, je n'ai pas à vous dire quel bien vous nous faites, moralement, à ce propos. L'attitude du P.c est bien en effet la preuve, une fois de plus, que les règles de la plus élémentaire morale, les principes de la plus élémentaire démocratie, sont et seront ignorés de ses fanatiques partisans, et cela n'est pas très encourageant pour l'avenir. Cependant, aucun d'entre nous n'a désespéré une seule minute de la victoire finale des idées que nous défendons: la manière même dont la GPU nous traite, au moment où Vichy condamne nos amis à la prison pour 20 ans, et où Hitler fusille ou torture les nôtres, prouve que quelque chose se cristallise, à travers la tempête, autour de ce que nous représentons: Nous sommes maintenant quatre écrivains, venant de quatre horizons différents, et par quatre chemins différents, en vertu de ce qui nous est commun: la passion pour la vérité, nous arrivons à des conclusions communes. N'est-il pas remarquable que l'historien de l'An I de la Révolution russe, Victor Serge, qui a collaboré avec tous les chefs de la rév., et qui est le seul survivant des compagnons de Lénine, en arrive à rejoindre les positions du vieux socialiste que j'ai toujours été, formé dans un milieu très différent, à travers un pays de traditions parlementaires et d'équilibre social longtemps affirmé. Et que le militant espagnol du P.o.u.m., qui s'est dressé contre la trahison stalinienne, au risque de périr vingt fois pendant des mois, rejoigne exactement l'opinion sur ces événements, leurs conséquences et nos devoirs actuels, du Commandant des Brigades internationales et écrivain révolutionnaire allemand Gustav Régler. Celui-ci, grièvement blessé devant Madrid, longtemps l'idole des staliniens, d'une tenue admirable devant les misères du Camp du Vernet est calomnié effroyablement comme nous tous pour avoir osé dire son opinion sur la politique stalinienne. Nous voilà donc rassemblés pour continuer en commun la recherche et le service de la vérité, sans peur ni désespoir... car notre rassemblement même est le signe des revanches que prépare l'astucieuse dialectique des événements..

En face de nous, un homme commence à se sentir dans une position délicate: c'est l'un des exécutants de cette campagne ignominieuse: Mr André Simone, soit-disant écrivain français, en réalité l'un des membres les plus actifs des "Services Extérieurs" de l'I.C. et de la GPU, tchèque d'origine et Otto Katz de nom véritable. Ce monsieur, qui, le 19 janvier, faisant une conférence devant 300 israélites d'un quartier riche de Mexico, appelait ouvertement à l'action directe contre nous, en disant: "Voilà la Vème Colonne;" écrit aujourd'hui à "Nation" pour affirmer qu'il n'a appris cette affaire "que par les journaux"... qu'il est innocent comme l'enfant qui vient de naître, qu'au surplus, il n'a jamais été en Amérique... et jamais travaillé avec l'I.C. ou la GPU.. Le menteur s'enferme... car il est venu 3 fois aux USA.. la dernière en février 1940, ce qui ne l'empêche pas de raconter les jours de la défaite, en juin, comme s'il était un témoin oculaire.. (Voir son livre: J'accuse!) En outre, il fut le collaborateur de Willie Munzenberg depuis 1933.. Envoyé à Paris par Piatnitski.. et si Munzenberg est mort mystérieusement, assassiné sans doute, soit par la Gestapo soit par la GPU sur une route de France, du moins, sa veuve est ici, et elle connaît très bien les choses, et n'est pas stalinienne du tout... Donc, nous nous défendons en attaquant... C'est une stratégie qui devrait bien inspirer certains Etats-majors..

Par ailleurs, les nouvelles venues depuis ma dernière lettre prouvent un renouveau d'activité aussi bien en France qu'en Espagne. Réunions plus nombreuses, demande de matériel, et réception enthousiaste de notre matériel par les amis du p.s.o.p.. Des visites inquiétantes de la Gestapo à Paris, particulièrement chez l'ami qui a organisé l'évasion des miens. Ceci nous préoccupe. Quant à l'Espagne, voici l'essentiel d'un rapport sur l'activité du P.O.U.M.: Plusieurs douzaines de militants qui étaient en France ont, sur l'ordre du Parti, regagné leurs régions d'origine et travaillent intelligemment en rapport avec les groupes reconstitués. L'organisation est telle que des militants ouvriers espagnols et d'autres nationalités d'Europe, traqués en France par la Gestapo, ont été sauvés par le passage clandestin des Pyrénées et ensuite vers le Portugal. Plusieurs militants socialistes et syndicalistes français ont ainsi traversé l'Espagne grâce au réseau de liaisons du P.o.u.m., d'un village à l'autre. Certains sont en route pour les USA. Tout cela nécessite des frais... et l'organisation n'a pas le sou... mais le dévouement des militants du P.O.U.M. est splendide. D'autres ont été dirigés en Afrique du Nord. En outre, chaque jour, le Parti court des risques énormes. Après la condamnation par les tribunaux français de 14 de ses militants-cadres, le P.o.u.m. vient encore de voir condamné, à Marseille, notre ami Bonnet à 5 ans de prison. En Espagne, les sections se réunissent et les régions de Barcelone, Valence, Madrid, sont particulièrement actives. A Barcelone, CHAQUE SEMAINE paraît le bulletin de la "horca" (la potence) anagramme de FORCA, Front Ouvrier Révolutionnaire-Catalan Antifasciste, dont le contenu a une grande résonance. Les militants sont en liaison permanente, font circuler les mots d'ordres et consignes, utilisent les ras-



PF 4 1664 Katz

337

COPY

T.D. Katz

Original filed in: S.F. 411/Mexico at 43a REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA IN MEXICO.

**Secret.**In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.  
dated 8.12.41.

450

M.I.5. (Miss M.J.E. Bagot)

Reference your PF.47298/B.4b(2), dated 28.7.41, \*  
I attach copies of two reports from our representative in  
New York on the activities of Communists in Mexico.

You will see from the report dated the 29th of  
October that our representative has confirmed the presence  
of Otto KATZ in Mexico City.

PF 41664

With reference to your PF.45935/B.4b(2), dated  
16.7.41, our representative states that he has no further  
trace of Paul MERKER beyond the report that he is working  
as a Communist propaganda agent in Mexico.

Our representative has not said whether the 980  
refugees who were stranded in Trinidad on the French steamer  
"Winnipeg" managed to obtain admission to Mexico and we are  
asking him again whether any information is available on this  
point.

PF 41273

Of the persons mentioned, Julian GORKIN, Marcel  
PIVERT, Ludwig RENN and Egon KIRSCH are doubtless well-known  
to you. Anna SEGHERS was mentioned in our of 10.7.35,  
Luis HERTZ in the enclosure to our of 21.6.41. and  
Martin TEMPLE in our of 8.6.38. We have no trace of  
Bodo URSE.

UHSE

\* Copy of this letter in SF 411/Mexico 2 32x?

h  
ShinP.M.L.  
8.12.41ENCL. 2. Reports  
- DEC 1941

TO: F.2.6.

REF: PF 47298

SF 411/Mexico

PF 9/24

1. hi  
8.1.42

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ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



337x

SF 411/mexico.

29.10.41.Communists in Mexico.

✕ Otto KATZ, alias André SIMON, is at present living at Calzado de la Piedad 31, Apt. 3, Mexico City. He is aged 45, born in Yistebenice, Czechoslovakia, and is married. He is described as height 5' 11", blue eyes, brown hair going grey, with a scar dividing both his upper and lower lip. KATZ entered Mexico with the assistance of Manuel Munoz Castillo, honorary Czech consul, on November 7th, 1940, via Laredo, Texas. His last place of residence was shown as New York.

KATZ is known to the British Propaganda Office in Mexico and is at present writing a book on the Fifth Column. A few weeks ago he delivered a public lecture in a series of lectures on behalf of the League of Exiled Writers, a Leftist organisation. Associates of KATZ are Dr. Ignacio MILLAN, Victor Manuel VILLASENOR (two prominent Mexican Communists), Victor SERGE and Julian GORKIN.

Victor SERGE is a writer who describes himself as a "Marxist liberal". GORKIN is a Spanish Communist whose great admiration for Maxim GORKI led him to change his name to GORKIN. He also is well known to the British Propaganda Office and is writing articles on their behalf. Like most of the Spanish Communists in Mexico, GORKIN is very much anti-Germany and pro-Russia-cum-Britain. He is the "harmless intellectual" type. GORKIN has been reported to be associated in Mexico with Marcel PIVERT and Paul MERKER. We have had no further trace of MERKER beyond the report that he is working as a Communist propaganda agent in Mexico.

The Propaganda Department is making use of these people just now, but in their opinion these actual friends may, in the event of the situation in Russia changing radically, quite quickly turn again into enemies. They are at heart anti-democracy through pro-Ally temporarily.

From the point of view of Mexican politics, they are in a position to play an important role. If the Mexican Government were to take a strong stand against the labour elements, these people would range themselves on the side of the C.T.M., the Gardenas (Cardenas) faction, and the Mexican Communist Party. They would undoubtedly support a revolution of the Left against the Army and a Rightist Cabinet.

The Mexican Communist Party is strengthened, therefore, by

/the



237x

SF 411 / Mexico

the following who are known to be in Mexico at present:-

Otto KATZ  
Ludwig RENN  
Egon Erwin KISCH  
Ana SEGHERS  
Bodo URSE <sup>WSE</sup>  
Alfred MILLER  
Victor SERGE  
Marcel PIVERT  
Luis HERTZ

Spaniards.

Carlos CONTRERAS  
Santiago GARCES  
Constancia de la MORA  
Amaro del Rosal DIAZ  
Victorio SALA  
Gregorio ANADEO.  
Francisco GALAN  
José ARMISEN  
José BARDASANO  
Luis MUNOZ  
COCHO (Rubio Fernandez)  
Serafin Arcas ECHEVARRIA  
Ignacio MANTECON.  
Candido RANCANO  
José SACANELL  
Alberto SALAS  
Col. Moreno NAVARRO  
Vicente JUDEZ  
José Pedroche CORDERO.  
Julian GORKIN.

The Mexican Communist Party has the following chiefs. These people are self-avowed Communists and work publicly.

Dionisio ENCINAS - Secretary General.  
Lic. Narciso BASSOLS.  
Enrique Ramirez RAMIREZ.  
Andres Garcia SALGADO.  
Ochoa RENTERIA - deputy.  
Silva HERZOG (general manager of PEMEX under Gardenas)  
Ana Maria Reina.  
Litz ARZUBIDE.  
Lic Luis Sanchez PONTON (ex-Minister of Education)  
Lic. and Deputy Zapata VELA.  
José MANCISIDOR.  
Deputy Alejandro CARRILLO - President of the Chamber.  
Candido JARAMILLO.  
Victor Manuel VILLASENOR.  
Ricardo J. ZEVADA.  
Dr. Ignacio MILLAN.



Copy for P.F. 41664  
(orig. in P.F. 47282.)

336a

P/A 22/11

S.I.A. Mr. Robson Scott.

Dr. Ivan KATZ.

Please refer to your KASPAR report of 12.10.41 re Dr. Kurt RAPPEL and the above. There seems to be considerable confusion about the identity of various Communist Party officials of this surname, and I would be very grateful for any light that you can throw on this matter.

We have records of a certain Ivan KATZ, a Communist member of the German Reichstag who, in November, 1934, attended a meeting in Dublin representing the K.P., and is known to have reported on the above meeting - which took place on the 20th - to the Central Committee POLITEBRO, German representation, in Moscow. This man was arrested by the Austrian Police in Vienna on 31.12.34 for having a false passport; a request for his extradition had been received from Berlin. Other Communists arrested at the same time were Heinz NEUMANN, a member of the Reichstag, and Elfriede GOLKE, who was alleged to have been connected with Communist disorders in Austria. KATZ was charged with high treason.

Can Miller add any additional information to the above please? I believe there was also a Heinz NEUMANN at this time who acted as a spy within the Communist Party and an informant against the Communists in several trials, but possibly this was in fact the same man.

We also have records of a John KATZ, a Communist who moved between Paris, Prague and Geneva, and is reported from one source, (no connection with KASPAR as far as I know) as having been in Berlin with RAPPEL on behalf of the Comintern in pre-Hitler days. It seems that this man must be identical with the KATZ reported by you in connection with the SALDA Committee and with the High Commissioner for refugees, Sir Herbert Emerson. But another KATZ is known to us who fits in with this description exactly, and this man certainly used the name of Rudolf KATZ. (I have an example of his visiting card, on which he describes himself as "Secrétaire adjoint du comité de liaison du haut commissaire de la S.B.N. pour les réfugiés provenant d'Allemagne. Secrétaire de la Fédération Internationale des émigrés d'Allemagne"). This gives the address of a hotel in Geneva, and his own address in Paris, 15 Rue du Faubourg Montmartre, Paris. 9.

1. mi  
8.1.42

27/11/43



The last named person was born on 8.12.12 at Skálet, and is believed to be of German origin, now stateless, with a French passport. His secretary in Prague was the well-known Czech Communist, Elena KATUŠKOVÁ. He has probably used also the name of Leopold BAUER. Our records confirm his connection with Dr. Kurt RAFAEL in Prague, and also with Hugo GRAF and Wilhelm KOENIG; they also confirm that with Dr. RAFAEL he held a leading position on the SALDA Committee.

The KATZ who was active in connection with refugee matters in Prague - John or Rudolf - was connected with a certain Otto KATZ, who was no relation to the former. This Otto KATZ was born on 27.5.25 in Jistebnice, and is or was of Czechoslovakian nationality. His wife is Liselotte KLACHMAN. He also spent a good deal of time in Paris living there for example during the greater part of 1933. It would be possible to provide a photograph of this man and a copy of his signature. He is described in one report as a native of Prague, but this probably means that he spent his early years there. He was in Spain during the Civil War, and is said to have watched refugees there on behalf of the GPU, and to have murdered a number of political opponents.

Although their ages differ considerably there seems to have been confusion at times between the KATZ born 1912 and the KATZ born 1895. The latter has the aliases of RUDOLF, Rudolf ERIDA, SIMON, and JOSEPH. He has been suspected of being a Nazi as well as a Communist agent. He was last heard of in New York in January, 1941, having arrived there in January, 1940, and has a Czech passport issued in Paris 16.7.38, valid to 1.3.44.

Note re [1.]

Can you say whether the "International Federation of Emigrants from Germany" actually existed?

F.2.B/TGB

15.11.41.

T.S. Bailey.



COPY AT.  
30.4.42

CONFIDENTIAL

7a PF 41664 KATZ  
Records No. SA. 1481

338a

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL CENSORSHIP

AIR

FROM: OTTO KATZ

TO: F.C. WEISKOPF

31 AVENIDA DEL RIO DE LA PEDAD  
MEXICO D.F.

306. EAST 15 STREET  
NEW YORK

5 MAY 1942

Date of letter: March 13, 1942.

Submitted to M.I.5. S.E. I.S.R.B.

ENGLISH

COMMENT

EXTRACT:

POLITICAL

"Work is going on very nicely. I have spoken in two house-parties and we have collected quite some money for the work of our ANTI-NAZI movement "FREE GERMANY".

NOTE: Writer also uses the name of ANDRE SIMONE. He is reputed to be an O.G.P.U. Agent. Addressee is a writer.

Allocation of this comment sheet: CPC CDR  
DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL LETTER: RELEASED.

11 vol 4. 26  
27/4/53. ✓ P. 17  
21-5-42



E.M.B.

COPY

For:

Original filed in: P.F.47298 33a  
 Extract from letter to S.I.S. dated 28.7.41 (Ref.P.F.47298/B.4b(2)).

P.F.47298/B.4b(2).

28th July, 1941.

Dear

I attach a copy of the following correspondence between Rudolph FEISTMANN, c/o Wells Fargo Express, Mexico D.F. and Juergen KUCZYNSKI, (who was last mentioned in your dated 5.4.41, and my P.F.42628/B.4b(2) dated 1.4.41:-

1. Copy of letter from Juergen KUCZYNSKI to Rudi FEISTMANN dated 31.5.41.
2. Translation of letter from Rudolf FEISTMANN to Juergen KUCZYNSKI dated 6.6.41.
3. Translation of letter from Rudolf FEISTMANN to KUCZYNSKI dated 18.6.41.

Rudolf FEISTMANN is identical with the writer of that name, German, born 28.1.08 who has been mentioned in correspondence between us ending with your dated 19.0.39. His sister, Helene FEISTMANN, German, born Berlin 10.2.15, is living in London and has recently been in touch with Juergen KUCZYNSKI.

We have the following information on record about the other individuals mentioned in the enclosures 1 to 3:-

Gerard and his wife) cannot identify  
 Paul

Ludwig BERN was last mentioned in my P.411/Mexico/B.4b(2) of 10.2.41.

Elise STEINFURTH is probably identical with a Mrs. STEINFURTH who was imprisoned in Berlin in September 1934; the International Relief Committee for the Victims of German Fascism was interested in her case. In May 1940 Elise STEINFURTH wrote from the Gurs internment camp in France to Isabel BROWN, the well-known British Communist.

Philipp MORDEN: No trace.

Benedict FREISTADT, Bruno FREI, who was last mentioned in your dated 6.2.39, was interned at Vernet d'Arriege in June, 1940, when he was in communication with Isabel BROWN.

Otto KATZ was/

S.I.S.

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 ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



3356  
E.M.B. COPY

For: P.F.41664 KATZ

Original filed in: P.F.47298 33a  
Extract from letter to C.I.S. dated 28.7.41 (Ref.P.F.47298/3.4b(2)).

R. Form 4.

Otto KATZ was last mentioned in my P.F.41664/3.4b(2) dated 14.7.41. I should be glad to hear whether you can confirm his presence in Mexico.

In view of Captain Christie's dated 28.5.41, I should be interested to hear what the 200 refugees who were apparently stranded in Trinidad on the French steamer "Winnipeg" managed to obtain admission to Mexico.

Yours sincerely,

W.F.D. Bagot.

MJEB/BMF.

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3348

C R O S S R E F E R E N C EP.F. 41664 V.4SUBJECT: KATZ Otto

Extract from letter of Marceau Pivert to John MacNair  
mentioning International Workers' Front against the War.

---

...There is here at this moment, mixed up on false pretences with the de Gaullistes, a certain Andre Simone, (sic) whose book, 'L'accuse' which tells of the only too real corruption of the French bourgeoisie, you know. Now I know this citizen very well and his imposture is most distressing. He was a secret agent of the Soviet Embassy in Paris. It was he who served as go between for the purchase of the Order ... and of Emil Bure. Every day, even during the war (for he was not placed in a concentration camp) he used to provide Genevieve Tabouis with the material for her articles. Now this German who is called Otto KATZ came to the U.S.A. in February 1940, and relates in the manner of a French eye witness the events of the June defeat.. this sort of trickery is going strong here, as in America. 'So much the worse for Them.'

Original in ..... S.F. 75/Int/5 V.3.132y ..... dated ..... 718.41.....

CLC

30.9.41.

S. Form 81..



P.F. 41664 Katz 3336

E.M.B. COPY

For:

Original filed in: P.F.47298 26E

26E

From: Rudolf FEISTMANN,  
Wells Fargo Express,  
Mexico D.F.

6th June 1941.

Juergen KUCZYNSKI.

Dear Friend,

I hope that you have received my letter of May 15th. Up till now I have unfortunately not had any confirmation from you. No good news to-day. Do you know where Gerhart and his wife are to be found? On the French steamer "Winnipeg" in Trinidad. With them are a whole crowd of other refugees, among them acquaintances of mine such as Else STEINFURTH (who was in a Concentration Camp in Germany for many years and was brought out by English women's organisations) Philipp NORDEN with wife and children. In all, there are 980 passengers on this boat. Bruno FREI (Benedikt FREISTADT) and his two children, Hans and Elizabeth, are in the party; their mother, as you will know, is buried at the Val de Vaux Cemetery near Paris; it is just a year since she was killed by a Nazi bomb in Paris. They spent the anniversary of their mother's death in Trinidad; one does not know under what conditions. The children are adopted by an American woman and have an American immigration visa.

The last news we have of them is from Casablanca on May 12th. Since that, silence. No answers to reply paid telegrams. No answer to Clipper letters etc., neither here nor to New York.

We have asked Otto KATZ here to telegraph Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Parliamentary Secretary of the Home Office, so that she may do what she can. She knows the majority personally. He did it after we had expressly asked him.

All the refugees have Mexican immigration visas, which were extended a few days ago, as most of them had run out. The position for us here is somewhat difficult, as no official diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Mexico exist. All Friends have besides American transit visas, as also Gerhart and Hilde.

That is all for to-day - I only know that others too ~~with~~ other ships have left on other ships, but there is no news of them.

I hope to hear from you very soon and send you my cordial greetings.

Yours,

Rudi.

P.S. I have begun to write down my experiences. Things have happened.

B.4. to see  
L. J. B. B. B.  
B.4. 27.41.

OK  
27/4/41.

✓

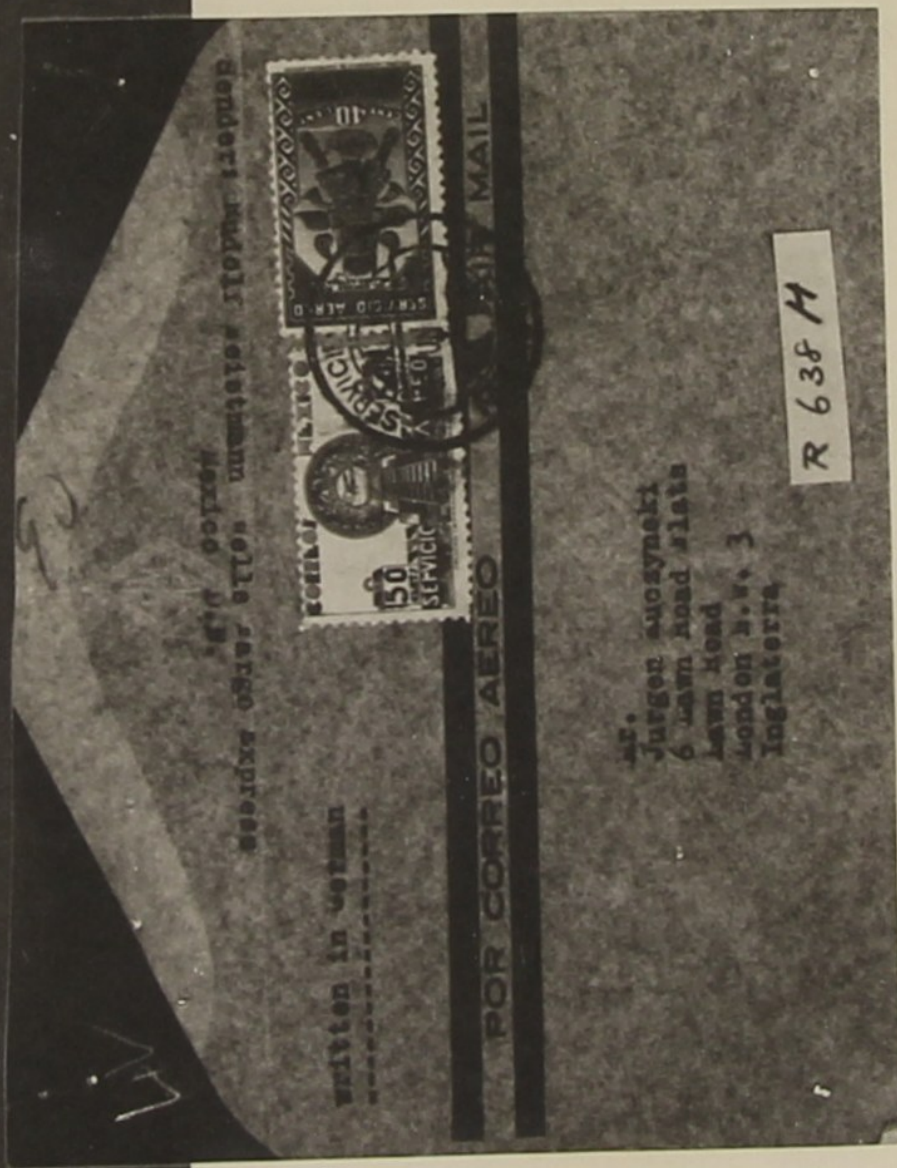


3336

E.M.B. COPY

For:

Original filed in: P.F.47298 26E



① R6  
27/4/53



written in German



Mr.

Juergen Kuczynski

6 Lawn Road Flats

Lawn Road

Inglaterra

---4-2-0-0-0-0---H.W. 3

CORREO AEREO

Q 891 H

E.M.B. COPY

For:

Original filed in: P.F.47298 26E

Rudolf Feistmann  
Wells Fargo Express  
Mexico D.F.

6. Juni 1941

Mein lieber Freund,

Ich hoffe, dass du meinen Brief vom 15. Mai gut erhalten hast.  
Bisher habe ich leider noch keine Bestätigung von dir erhalten.

Keine guten Nachrichten heute. Weisst du, wo sich Gerhart und Frau befinden? Auf dem französischen Dampfer "Winnipeg" in Trinidad... Mit ihnen eine ganze Reihe von anderen Flüchtlingen, darunter bekannten von mir wie Elise Steinfurth (die jahrelang in Deutschland im Konzentrationslager war und von den englischen Frauenorganisationen herausgeholt wurde), Philipp, Gordon nebst Frau und andere. Im ganzen sind 980 Passagiere auf diesem Dampfer. Auch Bruno Frei (Benedikt Freistadt) mit seinen beiden Kindern Hans und Elisabeth sind mit von der Partie; ihre Mutter liegt bekanntlich auf dem Friedhof von Vanves bei Paris begraben: es ist jetzt gerade ein Jahr, dass sie von einer Nazi-Liegerbombe in Paris getötet wurde. Den Todestag ihrer Mutter haben sie in Trinidad verbracht, unter welchen Umständen weiss man nicht. Die Kinder ~~steht in der Liste der Flüchtlinge~~ sind von einer Amerikanerin adoptiert und haben ein amerikanisches Immigrationsvisum.

Die letzte Nachricht von ihnen ist vom 12. Mai aus Casablanca. Seitdem Schweigen. Keine Antwort auf Telegramme mit bezahltem Rückantwort. Keine Antwort auf Clipper-Briefe etc. weder nach hier, noch nach New York.

Wir haben hier Otto Katz gebeten, an Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Parliamentary Secretary of the Home Office, zu telegraphieren, damit sie tut, was sie tun kann. Sie kennt ja die meisten persönlich. Er hat's getan, nachdem wir ihn alle ausdrücklich darum ersucht hatten.

Alle Flüchtlinge haben mexikanische Immigrations-visen, die vor wenigen Tagen verlängert wurden, da sie meistens bereits abgelaufen waren. Die Lage fuer uns hier ist etwas schwierig, weil keine offiziellen diplomatischen Beziehungen zwischen Grossbritannien und Mexiko bestehen. Saemtliche ~~britische~~ Freunde haben ausserdem amerikanische Transitvisen, auch Gerhart und Milde.

Das ist alles fuer heute. - Ich weiss nur, dass auch noch andere mit anderen Schiffen abgefahren sind. Aber es gibt keine Nachrichten von ihnen.

Hoffe sehr bald von dir zu hoeren und gruesse dich herzlichst  
Mit festem Haendedrueck

dein Rudi

P.S.: Habe begonnen, ueber meine Erlebnisse zu schreiben. etwas ist auch schon erschienen.

H 168 b



333A

Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

dated 27.7.41.

1.8.41.

M.I.5. (Miss M.J.E. Bagot)

Reference your P.F.41664/B.4b.2 of 14.7.41, I am afraid we have nothing on record either to confirm or refute the suggestion that Andre SIMONE, author of "J'Accuse", is identical with Otto KATZ.

Would it not be possible to question Commandant J. ESCARRA as to the grounds for his belief that they are identical?

B 4 82  
7741

ENCL -
2 JUL 1941
TO: Bagot (2)
REF: P.F. 41664

R  
y/h

P.H. 2.  
J.M. 110  
1.8.41

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ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



332

**SECRET**

P.N. 41664/4/B.4b.2.

14th July, 1941.

Dear Captain

I attach a copy of Censors' Comment on a letter from Le Commandant J. B. T. to Monsieur PIRARD dated 19.5.41. You should be interested to know whether you can confirm the identification of Andre SIMON, author of, I assume with Otto KATZ.

I understand from other sources that neither Frank M. who wrote a forward to the English edition nor the English publishers are certain of the author's identity but that they believe him to be Otto KATZ.

Yours sincerely,

Captain  
S.I.S.

J.C. Bagot.

SIB/MB

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Mar '03



Miss Bagot } .. is requested.  
B H & (2) }

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

-----oOo-----

3300  
Date 18.4.41....

"TRUTH"  
~~DAILY HERALD~~.

### POST-MORTEM ON FRANCE

J'Accuse. By André Simone. (Harrap. 8s. 6d.)

French politics enjoy almost as unsavoury a reputation as those of Tammany Hall and similar institutions across the Atlantic. M. Simone in this book does nothing to better it. In his account of the fall of the Third Republic, from 1933 to 1940, he seems to divide his characters for the most part into knaves and fools—the former being those of the Right who disagreed with him, the latter those of the Left, who agreed with him, but failed to do anything about it. One would be more inclined to accept his verdict on people with whom he has had personal contact, if on matters more open to general knowledge he presented less one-sided a picture. It is difficult to take a writer seriously who lays down the law on the most controversial issues with so little attempt to back his opinion with evidence.

If the book had been a *chronique scandale* of French political intrigues, it might have made more entertaining reading. A Paris journalist like M. Simone should have ample material from which to compile such a work. But the reader is disappointed. Thumb-nail sketches, not particularly vivid, of the leading politicians relieve what is in the main a recapitulation of the dreary and too familiar events along the road to ruin, which led *via* Sanctions and Non-Intervention to Munich and the war. Laval and Bonnet are made the principal scapegoats for France's misfortunes. No doubt they bear much on their shoulders; but the eagerness with which M. Simone and his friends have attacked them suggests a parody of their native proverb—*Qui accuse, s'excuse*.

SECTION NOTES:-

R.2.

NT

7ps. of And.  
SIMONE, M.

17/6/41



P.F.41664

C R O S S R E F E R E N C E

SUBJECT:-

Otto KATZExtract from M/S Report No 3. Sefton Camp. December 1940B.8c

23.1.41

.....

RABOLD told me that he emigrated to Prague in 1933 when his paper was suppressed after Hitler came to power. He remained there until 1938, when all his efforts to go elsewhere were frustrated by John KATZ, Otto KATZ (no relation of the former) and a certain RAPHAEL.

Of these three John Katz is known to most emigrants under the C.T.F. as a communist moving between Paris, Prague and Geneva who did his utmost to prevent political opponents from obtaining visas for England after Munich. RABOLD told me that KATZ and RAPHAEL were in Berlin on behalf of the Comintern in pre-Hitler days, but lay low there, and were equally quiet in Prague when they had to leave Germany. The curious thing, however, is that RAPHAEL had a German passport, which was renewed by the German Legation in Prague. Otto KATZ is a native of Prague, but lived most of his life in Paris. He was in Spain during the Civil War, where he watched refugees on behalf of the G.P.U. and murdered a number of political opponents.

.....

Final in... L.158 (1728)... 11a... dated... 23.1.41. *SPG*

rm 81.

J.E.M. ✓  
8.3.41.

*27/4/53*



328a P.1/27.

B4B Thiss Baget.

Major Younger. B.24.

The author of "J'Accuse" is reputed to be Otto KATZ, a Russian agent and member of the G.P.U. who formerly lived in Paris, but is now in New York.

Frank Owen wrote the foreward to the English edition of the book but both he and the English publishers say that they are not certain of the author's identity, but believe it to be Otto KATZ.

Press Section.  
4.4.41.

*Frank Younger*

*Thiss Baget*

*If you do follow this up - America - find it's correct, could you let us know.*

*B240*  
*141*

*AMBIT*

*10 16*  
*27/4/43.*



Copy. Originl in List 212(454) v.4. 120y

PF 41664

326A

B.24.L.

B.24., Mr Steadman.

It is not possible to enter any name on the C.S. War Black List unless there are full identification details.

Full name, nationality, date of birth, is the bare minimum provided there are other details available as in the case of Adol Jakob MAR.

Of this list I have sufficient detail of Otto KATZ, Leo KATZ and Adol MAR, which I have Black listed. Can you let me have further details of the others. I am sending what traces I can collect here but doubt if they are any good.

D.4.d.1.1.1.41.

CR  
27/11/53

SB  
18/12/51



[80129] 41352/171 600m 2/41 M&amp;C Ltd..706

POSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP. SUBMISSION No. P0/31249/41  
P.C.72

Terminal Mail <sup>Air</sup>  
~~Surface~~  
WAC. 28.5.41.

Letter from LE COMMANDANT J. ESCARRAT, To MONSIEUR. A. PIRAUD,  
Du Service Des Affaires Augustinas 1055  
Exterieures, Santiago,  
France Libre, Chili,  
Address or postmark 4 Carlton Gardens, Amerique Du Sud.  
London, S.W.1.

Date of letter  
or postmark 19.5.41.

Language FRENCH

## ORIGINAL LETTER :

## SUBMITTED TO :

Submitted X Photographed.....

PRESS.

Retained..... Released.....

INF.

Returned to Sender.....

M.I.5.

F.O .

Seen by : Naval Adviser..... Air Adviser..... M.I.12 .....

## SUBJECT

(Include necessary references to Watch Lists, with Authority requiring the Watch)

On behalf of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Free French Forces, the writer congratulates addressee on his publication "POUR LA FRANCE LIBRE" but deprecates its recommendation of the book "J'ACCUSE" as its author ANDRE SIMONE is, according to information received by him from NEW YORK, a SUDETAN JEW and communist agent whose real name is OTTO KATZ.

TRANSLATION. "I have received the copy of the second number of your revue "POUR LA FRANCE LIBRE" and I want to congratulate you .....the spirit is excellent, and this paper can but accelerate the progress of our movement in South America.

I notice on page 49, under the heading "Bibliographic" (sic) the paragraph in which you recommend to your followers the book, in Spanish, "I ACCUSE" (J'Accuse) by ANDRE SIMONE. I must tell you that, according to information we have received, Andre Simone is in reality OTTO KATZ, Sudetan Israelite and communist. A telegram received from France Libre, New York, a little time ago, read "The author of "J'Accuse" is Otto Katz, whose hostile attitude is well

Operating Unit

Section

Examiner

D.A.C.

Date

S.E.LONDON.

888

MEH.for SM. 23.5.41.



known.

Here, not only General de Gaulle, but the English public itself is reacting against this flood of books published since last June and depicting France as a country in process of decomposition. We do not share this viewpoint, and we completely repudiate this kind of tendentious and mercenary literature."

---

FOR MINISTRIES ONLY

Recommendation for Disposal of Letter and Reason

---

FOR CENSORSHIP INTERNAL ACTION

Letter Condemned..... Returned to Sender..... Released.....



H.O. File returned as follows:

From a security angle, we agree that these circulars should be maintained.

Otto KATZ and Ilse Lotte KATZ (or KLAGEMANN) are now in the U.S.A. where they have come under suspicion as Communists and also as Nazi agents. We should be glad if it could be noted that Ilse KLAGEMANN is now using the name of KATZ.

Egon Erwin KISCH and Dr. Benedict FREISTADT were prominent members of the Paris Bureau of the Communist International during 1938 and 1939. KISCH last came to notice in October 1939 when he passed through this country in transit from France to Chile. Dr. FREISTADT was in an internment camp in France in June 1940.

Since the issue of the circular Franz WEISKOPF is known to have been connected with publishing agencies and firms in receipt of Communist subsidies and, in August 1936, he was reported to be in charge of Communist courriers in Prague.

The subjects of the other circulars have not come to notice recently.

M.I.5.  
25.10.40.

Sgd. M.J.E. BAGOT.



3240

tracts from H.O. File 666546 re Reichstag Fire Enquiry.

-----

MINUTES.

This file has been brought up in accordance  
with the Minute of 6.9.33 in I.

It seems clear that these Circulars of  
September 1933, which relate almost exclusively to  
Germans, should be maintained.

To M.I.5 to see, and for any observations.

Sgd. J. HEWETT. 9.9.40.



PF.41664  
3F.416/25.

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ACT 1958. MAR 2005

3252

**SECRET**

PF.53229/B.4b(2).

5th December 1940.

Dear Colonel Vivian,

I was interested to see letter dated 10.10.40., addressed to Mr. Wood, regarding Emile BURE, as when this individual and his wife, Nadia, applied in November 1939 for exit permits to visit the U.S.A., their applications were backed by Mr. Duff Cooper and Mr. Harold Nicholson of the Ministry of Information, and by the Foreign Office Committee. The following particulars appeared on their applications:-

BURE, Emile.

French, born Droux 33(sic).3.76. Newspaper editor. Height: 1.75 metres. Eyes: gray. Hair: brown. Home address: 13 rue Molitor, Paris. Proceeding to: c/o Mr. KAUFFMANN, 404 Riverside, New York. Address in U.K: c/o Mr. WELLET, 14 Halsey (sic) and c/o Mr. WERTH of the Manchester Guardian. Paul WILBERT

BURE, Nadia.

French, born Gulets, Rumania 33(sic).3.07. Height: 1.59 metres. Eyes: brown. Hair: brown. (Other particulars as on Emile BURE's application).

'L'Ordre', of which Emile BURE is a director, has come to our notice on several occasions. According to 'L'Humanite' of 12.7.39., the 'News Chronicle' and 'L'Ordre' published an article on 'German operations in Russia', purporting to have been written by General Reichenau, but possibly fabricated by the Russians. It was the subject of your letter dated 28.7.39. In the same year, Jean GARNUS of 'L'Ordre', Paris, wrote to Edward WEISBLAT, the well-known Soviet and arms agent, acknowledging a cheque for £250 as commission in connection with the latter's case against Simon EPSTEIN.

'L'Ordre' was mentioned in your letter dated 20.1.39. and H.J. 273049 of 11.3.39. It did not come to notice again until June 1940, when the American authorities reported that Otto KATZ was in the U.S.A. as foreign correspondent on that paper. They also stated that since his arrival in the U.S.A., reports had been received by the American Government to the effect that KATZ was suspected of being a Communist, and also a Nazi agent who had been a member of the OGPU, and that he claimed to have very close connections with the German Government. This last point is, I think, of definite interest, when considered with your report of 10.10.40. about Emile BURE's offer to write up German propaganda in France.

In view of BURE's support by the Ministry of Information and the Foreign Office Committee, I should be very glad of your comments.

Yours sincerely,

W. J. B.



Received from S.S. 10.9.40

324x

Otto KATZ

PF 41664

1. Jistebnice 27.5.1895, Czechoslovakian.  
 Sport 16/33 Zurich. Divorced, wife and child in  
 many.  
 126550/2772. KATZ @ RUDOLF, Paris 1933. Said to  
 very interested in an organisation of internation-  
 legal procedure, also taking an active part in the  
 suite d'aide aux luttes contre le Fascisme Hitlerien  
 offshoot of the Committee of assistance to deal  
 Germany which was formed in Amsterdam under the  
 of the International Workers Relief. Also in  
 with MUNZENBERG, Ilse KLAGEMAN (supposed to be  
 mistress), Johannes SHULZ & Sophie BAROFKY.  
 describes himself as a man of letters and is respons-  
 ible for 'Das Braunbuch des Hitler-Terrors'  
 12.33. Arrived in U.K., accompanied by his secretary,  
 Austrian, Alexander Saskind ABESCHOR or ALUSCH,  
 Ilse KLAGEMAN, & a German Hans Theodore FOEL, to  
 attend a session of the legal commission into the  
 burning of the Reichstag.  
 23.4.34. again in U.K. this time with a Hungarian film  
 actor, Ladislav LOWENSTEIN @ LORRE. Wrote to Lord  
 Harley, H.O., with a personal request to go to Paris  
 Brussels.  
 In 1937, thought to be a Comintern courier between  
 Paris and Spain, also in close touch with Louis FISCHER,  
 Spanish government propaganda agent in London.  
 At the beginning of 1939, one of his former associates  
 reported him to be KATZ @ SIMON @ Rudolf BREDA, on  
 excellent terms with the Soviet authorities. He was  
 given the special task of building up English con-  
 nexions for German opposition and Communist propaganda,  
 through one Harold Jeffery Darnton FRASER, British jour-  
 nalist in Paris. At the same time he was said to  
 be receiving sums of money from a BERNSTEIN in London.  
 8.39. passed through U.K. on his way to France  
 from U.S.A.  
 1.40. French authorities threatened to intern him,  
 obliged to leave for New York.



323B

P.F.41664.

C R O S S R E F E R E N C E .JECT: KATZ Otto.

25.6.40.

Extract from intercepted letter from 'Hilde' to Jurgen  
KUCSYNSKI. (translated from French)

'Hilde' seems stranded at Limoges. She says: I would very much like to go to England, but how can do it? There is no consulate here and we can't go to Bordeaux. Do please write to America, to Otto K. and the others and ask them to do their utmost to speed up the visas for Mexico.....Otto's address 36 W.71th, New York.

nal in...P.F.42628.. Vol.3. KUCZINSKI. Ser.94ax. As above.

rm 81.

B.F.S.  
 13.12.40.





THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3230

## AMERICAN EMBASSY

London, June 3, 1940.

Dear Liddell:

With reference to your letter of March 5, 1940  
(File PF.41664/B.4b.) and previous correspondence  
concerning Otto Katz, alias Rudolf Breda, I am informed  
that Katz, accompanied by his wife, Ilse, arrived in the  
United States at the port of New York on the steamship  
President Adams on January 21, 1940. They were admitted  
for a period of three months. Otto Katz stated that he  
was born on May 27, 1895 at Jistebnice, Czechoslovakia,  
and his wife was born at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, on  
February 8, 1903. He is in possession of Czechoslovakian  
passport No. 2214/1938 in the name of Otto Katz, issued  
by the Consul General of Czechoslovakia in Paris on  
July 16, 1938 and valid until March 1, 1944. [Ilse Katz] <sup>PF 42279.</sup>  
is in possession of Czechoslovakian passport No. 477/1935  
issued by the Consul General of Czechoslovakia in Paris  
on September 3, 1935 and valid until March 1, 1944.

On

Capt. G. M. Liddell,  
Box No. 500,  
Parliament Street, B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

CU 86  
27/6/53.



-2-

323

On his passport there was a visa issued by the Prefecture of Police at Paris, No. 41725, which was valid until April 1, 1940. At the time of entry, this couple was held for a special hearing at Ellis Island, New York, at the termination of which they were admitted as temporary visitors for three months. The extension of their stay in the United States for an additional period of six months is now under consideration.

I am informed that in the course of this hearing Mr. Katz stated that he had last resided at Paris, France, for seven years, that his brother, Leopold Katz, was last known to be living at Prague, Czechoslovakia, and that his wife's mother, ~~Margareta Klagemann~~, was living at 15 Alsen Street, Berlin, Germany. He said that he and his present wife, who is his second wife, had been in the United States a number of times previously. On their first visit they arrived at New York on September 10, 1935 on the steamship Berengaria and left the United States on May 28, 1936 on the steamship Aquitania, and that on their second visit they arrived at New York on April 20, 1939 on the steamship Queen Mary and departed from the United States on August 23, 1939, again on the steamship Queen Mary. It is stated that Katz said that on the first visit they came as a pleasure trip, but that he obtained

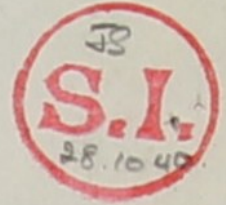
an



3230

-3-

an extension of six months in order to pursue research work on polar expeditions. He said that on the second visit he came as a newspaper man for business and claimed that he represented the newspaper <sup>8F 416/25</sup> L'Ordre of Paris as its foreign correspondent, presenting credentials from that paper and from the Paris police certifying that he was a correspondent. He said also that he was a close collaborator of <sup>P.F. 49724</sup> Genevieve Tabouis of L'Oeuvre.



many traces

Recently, when applying for a six months' extension of his stay in the United States, he said that he was residing at 36 West 71st Street, New York City, and that his pay as correspondent of L'Ordre is \$150.00 a month. He said that they had given him \$1,200 as an advance payment before he left.

I am informed that since his arrival in the United States reports have been received by Government authorities from private citizens to the effect that Katz is suspected of being a Communist and also a Nazi agent, who has been a member of the OGPU, and that he is claimed to have very close affiliations with the German Government. No information is available, however, showing his activities in the United States, as he does not appear to have participated openly in any of these movements.

Yours sincerely,

  
N. D. Borum



Register No. P.F. 41664 KATZ. V.S.

223.

10.37. S.B. report re departure of Otto KATZ.

223a.

224.

11.37 Int. letter from "Daily Herald" to KATZ.

224a

225.

11.37 To S.I.S. re KATZ.

225a

226.

26.11.37 To G.P.O. re KATZ.

226a

227.

27.11.37 Int. letter, dated 24.11.37, from FISCHER to KATZ.

227a

228.

27.11.37 To S.I.S. re 227a.

228a

229.

30.11.37. From S.I.S., commenting on 228a.

229a.

230.

8.12.37. To S.I.S. re 229a.

230a.

231.

Dec.1937. H.O.W. on Otto KATZ &amp; Robert Gaston G. PETIT.

231.a

232.

17.12.37. [Int. telegram from MIHAILOV, MOSCOW to SOVKONSUL, London.) 232a.

233.

30.12.37. [S.B. report re DELMER, D.S.]

233a.

6.1.38. Copy of Arrival Card for -234.

233c

10.1.38. S.B. reports re arrival of KATZ, Ellen WILKINSON &amp; Barbara WERTHEIM.

234a.

14.1.38. Copy of Departure Card for KATZ.

234c

17.1.38. S.B. report re departure of KATZ.

235a.

25.1.38. Cross ref. to int. letter from "Barbara" to KATZ.

235b.

236.

27.1.38. Cross reference to int. letter from - to Isabel BROWN.

236a.

237.

3.2.38. Cross reference to letter to American Embassy re - .

237a

[P.T. Over



238.

NOTE. ALL SERIALS MARKED DESTROYED  
ON AUTHORITY OF GEL/RB  
4/10/55

3.2.38. Int. card to KATZ from Hugh McCLELLAND.

23

239.

9.2.38 A.2c asked for T.I. particulars of BASSAN.

240.

10.2.38 A.2c asked for passport papers of Hugh McCLELLAND, None.

241.

NOTE. ALL SERIALS MARKED DESTROYED  
ON AUTHORITY OF GEL/RB  
4/10/55

21.2.38 To S.I.S. re 238a.

21.2.38. Copy of Traffic Index Arrival Card for KATZ.

241

242.

22.2.38. Met. Police Telegram dated 21.2.38, re arrival of KATZ.

242a

243.

22.2.38. S.B. report dated 21.2.38 re arrival of KATZ.

243a

244.

25.2.38. S.B. report re departure of Otto KATZ.

244a.

245.

25.2.38. Copy of Traffic Index Departure card for Otto KATZ.

245a

5.3.38. Cross-reference to int. letter to KATZ from B. WERTHEIM.

245b.

246.

7.3.38. Intercepted letter to Otto KATZ from Isabel BROWN.

246a.

247

8.4.38. Intercepted letter to Otto KATZ from "SIDNEY"

247a

8.4.38. Cross reference to int. wire from Otto to E. WILKINSON.

247b.

248.

11.4.38. From S.I.S. in reply to 241a.

NOTE. ALL SERIALS MARKED DESTROYED  
ON AUTHORITY OF GEL/RB  
4/10/55

249.

13.4.38 To S.I.S. in reply to 248a.

250.

25.4.38. S.B. report dated 22.4.38 re arrival of Otto KATZ.

250a

251.

25.4.38. S.B. report dated 24.4.38 re departure of Otto KATZ.

251a

252.

2.5.38. Int. letter to E.BROWN from Ilse KLAGEMANN.

252a.

253.

19.5.38. Cross-reference to letter to U.S. Embassy re. KATZ.

253a.



254.

3.5.38. Cross reference to int. letter from KATZ to Isobel BROWN. 254a.

255.

5.38. H.O. file K. 694 re KATZ. 255a

256.

5.38. Intercepted letter from Ellen WILKINSON to Otto KATZ. 256a.

257.

6.38. Telephone message re arrival of Otto KATZ. 257a  
6.38. S.B. report dated 26.6.38. re arrival of KATZ. 257b.

258.

8.6.38. S.B. report re departure of KATZ. 258a.

259.

7.38. From H.O. re Otto KATZ. 259a.

260.

Despite our strong minute in H.O. file dated 2.6.38, KATZ has once more been allowed to enter the country. Considered making representations to the H.O. but decided it was not a good case for a show down as we had no irrefutable evidence that KATZ is a Comintern agent. The supposition is very strong, but there is nothing we can bring forward as complete evidence.

B.4b  
14.7.38B.G.W.  
C

261.

15.7.38. Cross-reference to KATZ. 261a.

262.

.38. Copy of letter to S.I.S. mentioning 261a. 262a.

263.

31.7.38. Cross reference to Katz. 263a.

264.

28.8.38. Int. letter from Otto Katz to Isabel Brown. 264a.

265.

30.8.38. Copy of wire from E. Wilkinson to Katz. 265a.

266.

22.9.38. Undated int. letter from E. Wilkinson to Katz. 266a.

267.

21.9.38. Int. letter from KATZ to Isabel BROWN 267a  
3.10.38. Copy of Arrival Card for KATZ. 267b.  
4.10.38. S.B. report re. arrival of KATZ. 267c.



5.10.38. S.B. report re departure of KATZ 268a.  
269.  
5.10.38. Int. letter from Hamish Hamilton. 269a.  
5.10.38. Copy of departure card for - 270.  
~~11.10.38. Copy of Arrival Card for~~ 270a.  
~~270a.~~  
271.  
6.10.38. { Int. letter from Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau to KATZ. 271a  
6.10.38. { Cross reference re 271a and 272a. 271ax.  
272.  
13.10.38. { Int. letter from Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau to KATZ. 272a  
17.10.38. Int. letter from Hamish Hamilton Ltd. to - . 272b  
273.

B.6

Would you please obtain particulars of the Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau Limited, 40, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. (see 271a and 272a).

B.4b  
19.10.38

KAM

274.

B.4b. KAM  
24/10

Report herewith giving particulars regarding ANGLO-FOREIGN INFORMATION BUREAU LIMITED.

274a

B.6.  
20.10.38.

MH

275.

B.4a. MH  
24/10

To see 272a + 274a. Presumably we shall see more of this political news service going to Katz. It seems quite moderate in tone so far.

B.4b.  
24.10.38.

KAM

276.

18.10.38. Intercepted letter to KATZ from Beryl HUGHES.  
25.10.38. Copy of Int. letter to KATZ from BERNSTEIN.

276a  
276b

18.10.38. [Most Secret Cross reference to KATZ.] 277.  
2.11.38. Int letter from HAMILTON to SIMON 277a  
277b

278

Enc. 255a indicates that H.O. were anxious to clear up the question of Katz's admission to this country. Nothing further has been heard however - he has since visited U.K. I should like to see his papers again, - to ascertain whether any decision has been taken.

B.4b  
4.11.38.

KAM



Register No.

FF. 41004 KATZ. V. 8.

Minute Sheet No.

279.

.38. Copy of intercepted letter to Katz from Ellen Wilkinson. 279a.

280.

.38. Undated letter from E. Wilkinson to Katz. 280a.

281.

1.38. B.4b note on Otto Katz. 281a.

282

12.38. Copy of int. telegram from LEO to RELIEF COMMITTEE. 282a

283

12.38. Cross reference to int letter from FISCHER to KATZ 283a

284.

12.38. Int. letter from to Katz. 284a.

12.38. Cross reference to letter from Ellen Wilkinson to - 284b.

285a.

7.12.38. Renewal of H.O.W. on Otto Katz and Robert G.G. Petit. 285a.  
(dated December)

286.

.1.39. Cross ref. to int letter from KATZ to Isobel Brown. 286x

.1.39. Int. letter from Will DOBBIE to O. SIMON. 286a.

.1.39. Int. letter from KATZ to Isabel BROWN. 286b.

287.

.1.39. From S.I.S., dated 20.1.39, re. Otto KATZ. 287a.

288.

288a.

.9. To S.I.S. re KATZ.

289.

.39. Intercepted letter to KATZ from Margaret MANDER 289a  
(Parliamentary Committee for Spain.)

290.

.39. Intercepted letter from Ellen WILKINSON to KATZ. 290a.

291.

31.1.39. Int. letter from Wilfred Roberts to Katz. 291a.

292.

.2.39. Int. letter from Hamish Hamilton. 292a.

293.

.2.39. Cross reference to Katz. 293a.

[P.T. Over



9.2.39. Cross reference to int. letter from E. Wilkinson to -  
 294  
 10.2.39. Cross reference to S.I.S. report re KATZ.  
 295  
 13.2.39. S.B. report re Otto KATZ  
 296.  
 16.2.39. The Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau to Katz.  
 297.  
 17.2.39. From H. Hamilton.  
 298.  
 18.2.39. S.B. report re departure of O. Katz.  
 299.  
 20.2.39. Extract from letter to S.I.S.  
 300  
 21.2.39. Inf. letter to KATZ from W DOBBIE.  
 301  
 21.3.39. Cross reference to int. letter from MAHLE to KATZ.  
 302  
 24.3.39. S.B. report re arrival of KATZ  
 303  
 6.4.39. H.O. File K. 694 for Otto KATZ.+(returned 13.4.39.)  
 304  
 7.4.39. S.B. report re departure of KATZ  
 305.  
 19.4.39. Copy of M/S report re -  
 306.  
 11.5.39. Letter from Victor Gollancz re -  
 307  
 1.7.39. H.O. file K.694 for Otto KATZ  
 307a  
 3.7.39. Copy of letter to S.I.S. re Leopold BAUER and Otto KATZ, original  
 in P.F.47282  
 25.7.39. Cancellation of H.O.W. on Otto KATZ.  
 308a



REGISTER NO. 1.1.1.1001

309.

The letters seen recently on this check have mainly been concerned with quite open political matters. KATZ's present contacts in the U.K. are mainly well known members of Parliament. There is every reason to believe that KATZ is still a communist. As the check has produced so little of real interest, however, I think it should be cancelled for the time being.

B.4b.  
25.7.39.

Katz

310.

9.8.39. S.B. report re arrival of Otto KATZ. 310a.  
 10.8.39 (From Postmaster, Twickenham re Cablegram sent by KATZ.) PF 47638 310x  
 311.  
 10.9.39 (Int. letter to KATZ From Herbert HOFFMANN) filed in 47101 with in PF 47638 311k  
 11.9.39 To U.S. Embassy re. KATZ. 311a.  
 10.10.39 (Int. letter to KATZ from Martins Bank Ltd.), PF 47638 311x

4.10.39. Cross-reference 312.  
 To S.I.S. regarding Lt. Col. Hans KAHLE re Otto KATZ 312a

313

11.11.39 From American Embassy re KATZ O. 313a

314.

0.11.39. Cross-reference to S.I.S. report re Louis FISHER. 314a

315.

1.12.39. Copy of letter CK re KATZ 315a.

316.

19.12.39. Copy of letter to S.I.S. re MUNZENBERG and KATZ. 316a.

317

9.1.40 Cross reference to letter from S.I.S. re - 317a  
 9.1.40 Note re KATZ 317b

318.

17.1.40. From S.I.S. re Otto KATZ. 318a.

319.

21.1.40. To S.I.S. re KATZ, MUNZENBERG and ASCHBERG. 319a.

320

27.1.40 Copy of letter from SIS. re KATZ. 320a



321

28.2.40

From S.I.S. re 319a

321a

**FILE CLOSED**



322A

**SECRET**

PF.41664/B.4b.

5th March 1940.

Dear Borum,

With reference to your letter of 6.11.39.,  
and previous correspondence under our PF.41664/B.4b.,  
regarding Otto KATZ alias Rudolf BREDA, I have been  
informed that this man left Marseilles for New York  
on 7.1.40. on board the s.s. "President Adam".

I should be most grateful if you would let me  
know if this man should come to your notice in any  
way.

Yours sincerely,

*G. H. L.*

N.D. Borum Esq.,  
American Embassy.

T

*H.B.*  
*5/3/40*



dated 27.2.40

M.I.5. (Miss Bagot)

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958  
May 03

321A

On receipt of your PF.41664/B.4b, dated 21.1.40., we wrote to our Representative pointing out the various discrepancies in the reports we had received regarding Otto KATZ, [Willi MÜNZENBERG] and [Olaf ASCHBERG.]

As regards the question of KATZ and MÜNZENBERG being allowed to remain because they were Revolutionary Marxist Socialists, while [KOESTLER] had been interned for the same reason, our Representative states, that, although he has not been told so, he believes that MÜNZENBERG is an agent of the French Ministry of the Interior (you will remember that we have previously had reports to this effect). This, he says, is rather borne out by para.1, page 11, of the report forwarded under our CX/2637 of 12.2.40. It will be remembered that [Babette GROSS,] MÜNzenberg's mistress, was, before being brulée, a French agent.

Our Representative also believes that Otto KATZ, notwithstanding his role of supervisor of Soviet agents in France, worked for the French Police, but did not give satisfaction. Our Representative knows that he was given the option of leaving France or being interned. He chose the first alternative and left Marseilles on 7.1.40. on board the s.s. "President Adam" en route for New York.

As regards the position of Olof ASCHBERG, our Representative states that it is fairly evident that this man, who is a Jewish international financier, is an individual mainly concerned with his own interests. This is the probable explanation of his activities in both the Soviet and anti-Soviet camps.

Arthur KOESTLER, born Budapest 6.9.1905., was released from Vernet Concentration Camp on 23.1.40. and returned to his at 10 rue de Dombasle, Paris.



S E C R E T.

5200  
,dated 27.1.40

M.I.5. (Captain Derbyshire)

In continuation of our [redacted] dated 15.1.40,  
it may interest you to know that, according to information  
obtained by the [redacted] S.URIEWICZ, travelling  
on a Polish passport, visited Paris at the end of October 1939  
where he met Louis FISCHER and Otto KATZ.

[redacted] also state that URIEWICZ is reported to  
express anti-Stalin views in London and to have declared that  
he would have nothing further to do with Communism. Accordin  
to his statement he was trying to form a "Jewish Front", which  
would group together all the anti-Hitler Jewish associations i  
the British Empire.

We should be interested to know whether you have obtained  
any information about this man's activities and associated  
in London

for V.V.

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319A

PF.41664/B.4b.

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3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. MARCH 2003

21st January 1940.

Dear Colonel Vivian,

Would you please refer to your dated 16.1.40 and your CX/2659/4544, dated 10.1.40 regarding Otto KATZ.

As we are dependent on you for all our up-to-date information regarding Otto KATZ, we are unable to confirm or refute the report that he is a G.P.U. agent, but a comparison of some of your recent reports regarding KATZ and others produces some interesting results.

1. Otto KATZ.

KATZ and his wife Ilse passed through the U.K. in transit from the U.S.A. to France on 28.8.39. We have not been able to obtain any information regarding their activities while in the States. On 20.11.39, in your report that KATZ had assisted Louis FISCHER during the Spanish War in the direction of propaganda on behalf of Republican Spain.

PF45916 On 1.12.39 in your report that [Arthur KOESTLER] Hungarian journalist, and special correspondent of the "News Chronicle", had been interned in France on account of his connection with Otto KATZ and Willi MUNZENBERG, members of the Friends of Socialist Unity in Germany (an organisation affiliated to the International Revolutionary Marxist Centre in London), but according to CX/8438/V of 9.1.40, both KATZ and MUNZENBERG have been allowed to remain in France because they are Revolutionary Marxist Socialists, i.e. for the same reason that KOESTLER was interned.

2. [Willi MUNZENBERG.]

In addition to the above mentioned reference, MUNZENBERG was reported in CX/2637/V of 3.10.39 to be a personal friend of Olaf ASCHBERG, who is, according to your CX/2637/V, one of the principal distributors of Soviet funds in France, as he has been in the past in Sweden.

On 2.1.40 we passed to you, under our RL.451/328/B4b information that we had received to the effect that MUNZENBERG was the Paris contact of the German Freedom Party and was associated with Die Zukunft.

3. [Olaf ASCHBERG.]

This man, who was reported on 12.12.39 (your CX/2637/V) to be one of the principal distributors of Soviet funds in France, is said in your report to be responsible for subsidising the Friends of Socialist Unity in Germany with which MUNZENBERG and Otto KATZ are connected. Both this

Lt.-Colonel V.Vivian, C.B.E.,  
S.I.S.



- 2 -

organisation and the International Revolutionary Marxist Centre in London, to which it is affiliated, have been previously considered strongly anti-Stalinist.

It is perhaps interesting to recall that it has been alleged that Julius DEUTSCH, leader of the Austrian Marxist Socialist Party, has been bought by Archduke Otto of Hapsburg, see our L.158/859/B.4b of 28.11.39.

We imposed an H.O.W. on ASCHBERG's Paris address a month ago but have so far seen no result.

This is not, I am afraid, a helpful letter, but if you are able to clear up any of the apparent discrepancies, I should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

NJB



319

dated 16.1.40.

B2  
F2

My dear White,

Would you please refer to  
CX/2659/4544 (which please correct to  
V.  
of 10.1.40., in which, at the end of the second paragraph,  
Otto KATZ is described as "the G.P.U. agent".

This statement so surprised me in relation to Otto  
KATZ, of whose history I was at one time well aware, that  
I looked back over the file to check up whether he had  
ever been proved to be a G.P.U. agent. I find, however,  
that description entirely depends upon a  
statement of Grand's, for which absolutely no evidence  
or authority is advanced, and should therefore be heavily  
discounted, unless you yourself have any reason to think  
otherwise.

I should be most grateful to have your own views in  
the matter.

Yours sincerely,

D.G. White, Esq.,  
M.I.5.



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ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



Otto KATZ. 3, Impasse Sainte Felicite,  
Paris 15e.

20.8.39. S.B. report re. arrival of Otto KATZ and his wife, Ilse, in the U.K. in transit from the U.S.A. to France.

20.11.39. S.I.S. report that Otto KATZ had assisted Louis FISCHER during the Spanish War in the task of directing propaganda on behalf of Republican Spain.

1.12.39. S.I.S. report (CX/ ) that Arthur KOESTLER had been interned in France on account of his connection with KATZ and Willi MUNZENBERG, members of the FRIENDS of SOCIALIST UNITY in GERMANY (an organisation connected with the International Revolutionary Marxist Centre in London).

10.1.40. S.I.S. report (CX/2659/4544/V) that Werner KNOP, although expecting money from such people as the Duchess of Atholl, still maintained, in June, 1939, his contacts with Otto KATZ, "the G.P.U. agent".

9.1.40. S.I.S. report (CX/8488/V) that Willi MUNZENBERG and Otto KATZ had been allowed to remain in France as dissident Communists, Revolutionary Marxist Socialists.

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Mar '03.

PI.F.41664. ✓



P.F.41664. 51/4C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .

SUBJECT: KATZ Otto.

CX/8488 dated 9.1.40 states that according to information obtained by our representative in France from the French authorities, Willi MUNZENBERG is allowed to remain in that country as a dissident Communist, but he would now perhaps be better described as a Revolutionary Marxist Socialist.

The same remarks apply, we are informed, to Otto KATZ, who now resides at-

3 bis Impasse Saint Felicite,  
Paris 15e.

Original in P.F.R.3608 vol.3. MUNZENBERG. ....dated. 9.1.40. ....

B.H. 12.1.40. ✓

S. Form 81.



210

Copy.  
Original in:-  
PFR.3608/B.4b.

19th December 1939.

Dear Colonel Vivian,

We should be most interested to have any information that you may be able to give us regarding the present position of Willi MUNZENBERG.

According to your CX/2367/V, dated 3.10.39., he is a great friend of Olaf ASCHBERG, now one of the principal distributors of Soviet funds in France, and in your dated 1.12.39 you reported that the French authorities had interned Arthur KOESTLER on account of his connection with MUNZENBERG and Otto KATZ. We should therefore be glad to know the present addresses of both MUNZENBERG and KATZ.

Yours sincerely,

W.E.B.

Lt.-Colonel V.Vivian, C.B.E.,  
S.I.S.

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S E C R E T.

dated 1.12.39.

3164

M.I.5. (Mr. Derbyshire)

As an additional paragraph to their report on  
Lt. Col. Hans KAHLE and the KUCZYNSKI's vide our  
of 1.12.39 informed  
us that Otto KATZ arrived in France from the U.S.A. at  
the end of August 1939. He was then intending to leave  
France for Oslo and was awaiting his passport. He also  
volunteered for the Czechoslovak Legion, but is at  
present trying to get his calling up notice postponed.

A copy of his photograph is attached hereto for  
your records.

(Signed)

for V.V.

C O P Y. Original filed in P.F. 47192 KAHLE. (32a).C  
15/11/39

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ACT 1958. MARCH 2003



316a

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

PHOTOGRAPH OF OTTO KATZ.







COPY OF LETTER FILED IN P.F.48918. 20a.

315 A

dated 1.12.39.

The French authorities state that the Hungarian, Arthur KOESTLER (born Budapest 6.9.05.) was interned because of his connection with Willi MUNZENBERG and Otto KATZ.

Having ceased to represent the "News Chronicle", KOESTLER became correspondent for a German weekly newspaper named "Die Zukunft", of which, as we know, MUNZENBERG is Director.

KOESTLER is, according to the French, a member of a political group known as "Friends of Socialist Unity in Germany", the object of which is to co-ordinate Marxist Socialist Unity of the German race in all countries. This group represents England and France as Imperialist countries which must be fought after they have defeated Hitler.

Both MUNZENBERG and KATZ appear also to be members of this group, the policy of which is apparently to constitute a post-war German Communist Party in opposition to the Moscow Communists.

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1/1/12



314A

P.F.41644.

C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .SUBJECT:- KATZ Otto.

In an S.I.S. report dated the 20.11.39. it is stated FISCHER Louis who during the Spanish War was given the task of directing propaganda on behalf of Republican Spain in foreign countries, was assisted in this task by Otto KATZ.

CX 12650/4038/V.

38488.

P.F. 48488.

20.11.39.

Original in.....dated.....

B.H. 30.11.39.

S. Form 81.





THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3132  
AMERICAN EMBASSY

LONDON, November 6, 1939.

Dear Liddell:

With reference to your letter PF.41664/B4b  
of September 1st, 1939 regarding Otto KATZ,  
alias Rudolph BREDA, and his wife, Ilse, I  
have heard from Washington that no information  
has developed regarding their activities there.  
If any data are received in the future, the  
information will be communicated immediately.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. B. Brown", written in a cursive style.

Captain G. M. Liddell,  
Box No. 500,  
Parliament St., B.O.,  
London, S.W. 1.



512A  
PF.41664C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .

SUBJECT:- Otto KATZ.

14.10.39.

In a letter to S.I.S. regarding Lt. Col. Hans KAHLE, who is now reported to be running a G.P.U. espionage system in this country, we informed S.I.S. that in December 1938 KAHLE was apparently in close touch with Otto KATZ and Louis FISCHER.

Original in.....PF.47192 KAHLE, 26a.....dated.....14.10.39  
DG.  
18.10.39

S. Form 81.

AYD  
24/10/39



311A

**SECRET.**

PF.41664/B4b.

1st September, 1939.

Dear Borum,

We have been informed that Otto KATZ @  
Rudolph BREDA, the Czech communist mentioned  
in our 411/USA/B4b of 19.5.38., disembarked  
at Cherbourg from the R.M.S. "Queen Mary" on  
28.8.39. He was accompanied by his wife  
[Ilse Lotte KATZ née KLAGEMANN.] PP 42279

We should be most grateful if you could  
give us any information about their activities  
while in the U.S.A.

Yours sincerely,

G M K

Colonel Sir Vernon Kell.

N.D. Borum, Esq.,  
United States Embassy.

✓ Hm  
21/9/39



6861 NOV 6 3

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy).

PORT OF SOUTHAMPTON.  
METROPOLITAN POLICE.

COPY

310A

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT KATZ.

28th day of August, 1939.

Otto.

Among the passengers who disembarked today at

Reference to Papers. Cherbourg from the R.M.S. "Queen Mary" was one Otto KATZ,

300/WIR/32. Czecho-Slovakian, age 44, occupation - journalist. He

M.I.5. was accompanied by his wife, Ilse, age 36 and both were

proceeding through to Paris where their intended address

was given as 3 Bis, <sup>Impasse</sup> Tinpasse, St. Felicite, Paris, 15.

From the description I obtained from the  
steward of their tourist class cabin, there is little  
doubt that this man is identical with Otto KATZ who is the  
subject of Special Branch Suspect Book.

*S. Garrett*  
Sergeant.

Submitted,

*R. Fletcher*  
Sergeant.

*A. Vensley*  
Supt

SUPERINTENDENT.

Please join



308A

**SECRET.**

P.F. 41564/34b.

S. FORM 18.

Please suspend the operation of the H. O. W. relating to the  
undernamed person. Cancellation has been applied for.

Name Otto KATZ,

Address 3 bis Impasse Sainte-Felicite, Paris.  
c/o Editions Carrefour, 83 Boulevard Montmartre, Paris.

Date 25.7.39. Signature Kay

PA  
4/8/39



307A

Copy of letter to S.I.S. re Leopold BAUER, alias Rudolf KATZ and Otto KATZ.

Original in P.F.47282/B4b.

3rd July 1939

Dear Major Vivian,

We have just received from the Home Office certain files which indicate that Otto KATZ the well known communist in Paris has become confused in their records with Leopold BAUER, alias Rudolf KATZ, last reported in your of 12.4.39. As you know, Leopold BAUER, alias Rudolf KATZ, was doing refugee work in Prague prior to the German occupation and was in close touch with the High Commissioner of the League of Nations Committee for German refugees. At the time of the occupation he was allowed to take refuge in the British Legation. The Home Office referred to us an application made by D.N. PRITT on behalf of Rudolf KATZ for our observation. As we knew nothing to the detriment of BAUER, Alias Rudolf KATZ, we minuted the file "We have no observations". On 7.4.39. you sent us by telephone the information contained in your report (Reference as above, of 12.4.39.) This information, which linked the name of Rudolf KATZ with Madame MATUSCHOVA, appeared to be based on a telegram from Warsaw dated 6.4.39. According to this telegram KATZ appeared to be on the Black List.

On the strength of this report we setn for the Home Office file of Leopold BAUER, alias, Rudolf KATZ and stated that he was a communist with a bad reputation in Paris. The Home Office file which has now been sent to us shows that a telegram dated 6.4.39. (the same date as the one mentioned in your report) was received from Sir H. KENNARD in Warsaw and was in the following terms:-

"Refugee Committee representatives are being embarrassed by a certain Rudolf KATZ born 1895 who is of party of seven granted visas for England in Prague. He seems to be an active Communist, visits Soviet Embassy here and has already aroused the suspicions of Polish police. He is apparently on the Home Office black list. Miss HOLLINGWORTH is on my suggestion telling the Polish authorities that he is not a member of Refugee organisation which it is his ambition to be. Otherwise organisations work will be compromised here. I should be grateful if Refugee Committee could be warned confidentially".

The coincidence of the dates suggests that this telegram and the telegram mentioned in your report are both based on the same information. The telegram from Sir H. KENNARD, however, states that Rudolf KATZ was born in 1895, whereas Leopold BAUER, Alias Rudolf KATZ, was born on 18.12. 1912 according to your report CX/4465 of 17.12.36., which has been confirmed by subsequent entries in the Traffic Index. The date 1895 is the date of birth of the Paris communist, Otto KATZ.

The latter, as you know, is the subject of Home Office circular excluding him from the U.K. This circular gives his name as Joseph, or Otto, or Rudolf KATZ. It seems possible, therefore, that the Passport Control Officer in Warsaw on receiving an application from Rudolf KATZ, looked up the circular, assumed it to refer to the applicant and supplied both you and the Home Office with the information that the Rudolf KATZ who was in Warsaw was a communist.

Major V. Vivian, C.B.E.,  
S.I.S.

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ACT 1958. MARCH 2005



This is the only explanation which seems to me to fit the facts, since if the man referred to in the telegram received by the Home Office was really born in 1895 it seems clear that he cannot possibly be Leopold BAUER alias, Rudolf KATZ who is seventeen years younger.

There is always the possibility that the man applying in Warsaw was the Paris communist, Otto KATZ. I do not, however, think that this is likely because so far as we know he has not used the alternative name, Rudolf KATZ for years. Moreover MATUSCHOVA it is not likely that he is the man whose mistress is Madame, MATSCHOVA, since he always travels in the company of Ilse KLAGEMANN who has been his mistress for a considerable time and who now calls herself Mrs. KATZ.

It is very desirable that this matter should be cleared up as soon as possible since Leopold BAUER, Alias, Rudolf KATZ is closely associated with the League of Nations Organisation for refugees and is known to have done much good work in conjunction with them. If it is established that the information in your report CX/29552 of 12.4.39. relates not to Leopold BAUER, alias Rudolf, KATZ, but to Otto, alias Joseph, alias Rudolf KATZ, the Paris communist, I ought to inform the Home Office. Apart from your report we have nothing against Leopold BAUER.

I should be very grateful, if this could be dealt with as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

K.G.Y.



Copy filed in PF 47282 BAUER

306B

Draft Minute for H.O. file K.694. Otto KATZ.

In this case two different men known as KATZ have been mistaken for each other, owing to the fact that both men have on occasion used the name "Rudolf". The two men are -

1) KATZ, Otto, @ Rudolf, @ Simon, @ BREDA, Rudolf, born 27.5.95, subject of H.O. file K.694 and of two exclusion circulars issued in September 1933.

This man is a well known Comintern agent living in Paris, as stated in our minute of 13.4.39. and previous minutes on K.694. He arrived in the U.K. on 24.3.39. and left again on 7.4.39.

2). [BAUER, Leopold, @ KATZ, Rudolf,] born 18.12.12., subject of H.O. file B.16572.

This man was engaged in refugee work in Prague until March 1939. He was in touch with the League of Nations organisation, and was allowed to take refuge in the British Legation when the German Army occupied Prague. In our minute dated 10.5.39 on H.O. file B.16572 we stated that this man was a communist. This statement is not correct and was made owing to an error whereby the exclusion circular issued against the other KATZ was read as applying to this man. The minute of 10.5.39 should accordingly be cancelled. Nothing is known against Leopold BAUER, @ Rudolf KATZ. He paid a short visit to the U.K. in January 1939 on refugee business, and does not appear to have come here again until his arrival on 19.7.39.

We know nothing of any man named KATZ having visited the Foreign Office about 20th April 1939. According to the Traffic Index neither of these men was in the U.K. on that date.

<sup>above</sup>  
B.4b.  
31.7.39.

Ab 16

KQ4.

1.8.39. File returned minuted as above.

F.C.D.



306B

H.O. file K.694. Otto KATZ (continued.)

5.4.39. Extension granted to Otto and Ilse KATZ to 15th April 1939

6.4.39. Copy of telegram from Sir H. KENNARD, (Warsaw), to F.O.:-

"Refugee Cttee. representatives are being embarrassed by a certain Rudolf KATZ born 1895 who is of party of seven granted visas for England in Prague. He seems to be an active Communist, visits Soviet Embassy here and has already aroused the suspicions of Polish police. He is a parently on Home Office black list. Miss Hollingworth is on my suggestion telling Polish authorities that he is a not a member of Refugee organisation which it is his ambition to be. Otherwise organisatin's work will be compromised here. I should be grateful if Refugee Cttee could be warned confidentially."

18.4.39. From A.W.G. RANDALL, F.O., to H.O. enclosing copy of above telegram. He states that it appears possible that KATZ has already left Gdynia for the U.K. This seems to be confirmed by the enclsoed telegram....about the TAUB party which is believed to include KATZ. .... F.O. proposed to reply to the telegram that KATZ is well known as having done useful work for the High Commissioner for Refugees (Sir Neill MALCOLM) and that if he is still in Warsaw the Embassy should give him a message from ghe High Commissioner asking him to return to London at once.....As KATZ has been granted a visa for the U.K. F.O. presume there will be no dicfficulty about his admission here in spite of what Warsaw say about the H.O. black list.

20.4.39. To RANDALL stating that Rudolf KATZ and wife were allowed to land in this country on the 23rd March and embarked at Dover on the 7th April. H.O. had been told that KATZ was in Paris.

5.5.39. From RANDALL with further reference to this case and expressing the opinion that this is a confusion over the identity of KATZ. "The Rudolf KATZ who formed the subject of my letter to Cooper of the 12th April took refuge in the Legation at Prague on the 15th March and was still there until well after 23rd March. He did not come to the U.K. until about 15th April. KATZ called at the F.O. about the 20th April. After expressing his gratitude for the protection which he had received in the Legation, he said that he had had no politicla activities in Warsaw. He was now mainly concerned with the organisation of refugees to ensure .....Finally he asked if he could be given a visa for the U.K. valid for some months. instead of having to get a visa every time he entered the country. He explained that he would probably be coming over regularly to see the High Commissioner and it was inconvenient to obtain a visa on each occasion. He was told that if Sir Herbert EMERSON made a request that he should be given a visa for a longer period it would be synpathetically considered; but we understand that he did not approach Sir Herbert on the subject....."

#### MINUTES.

18.4.39. See let ter from F.O. ated 12.4.39. covering copy of a telegram from Warsaw. In view of the embarrassment which KATZ causes the Refugee Sttee. representatives it is suggested that he may be recalled to London on the pretext that the High Commissioner wishes to see him urgently.

KATZ whd is permanently settled in Paris arr. U.K. on ~~xxx~~ 24.3.39. and embarked at Dover on 7th April. In these circs. there is no longer any need to take action as suggested. ....

26.6.39. - but Rudolf KATZ was also born in 1895 and is also a Communist. To T.I. Have you anything in Rudolf KATZ' name please.

27.6.39. No trace of alien of that name and age in T.I.



306B

28.6.39. T.I. It seems that Rudolf is also an alias of Otto Katz. Otto Katz is reported to have emb. on 7th April yet Rudolf (i.e. Otto the same man as seems nearly certain) is stated to have visited the F.O. on or about the 20th April. Did Otto land again then?

28.6.39. N.T. re-arrival up to 18.6.39.

29.6.39. Then it appears that -

A- There was a Rudolf KATZ in this country on X or about 20th April whose arrival cannot be traced in the T.I.

B) Rudolf KATZ is to help us spot spies!

C) Rudolf is an alias of Otto KATZ undesired communist.

To M.I.5. on these (apparent) facts and previous .....(Illegible)



PF. 41664.

307a

C R O S S - R E F E R E N C E .

O.K. SIMON.

SUBJECT:-

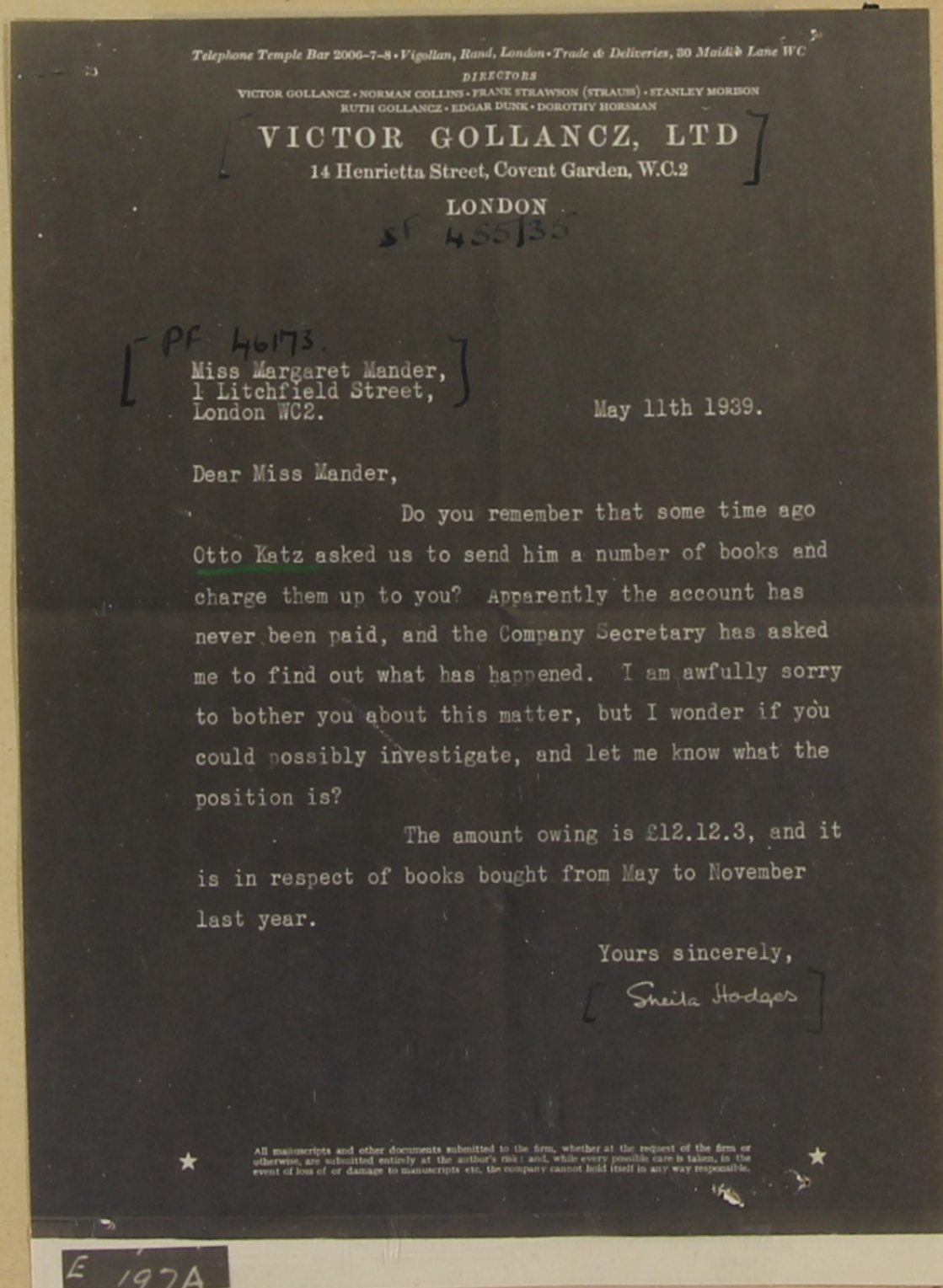
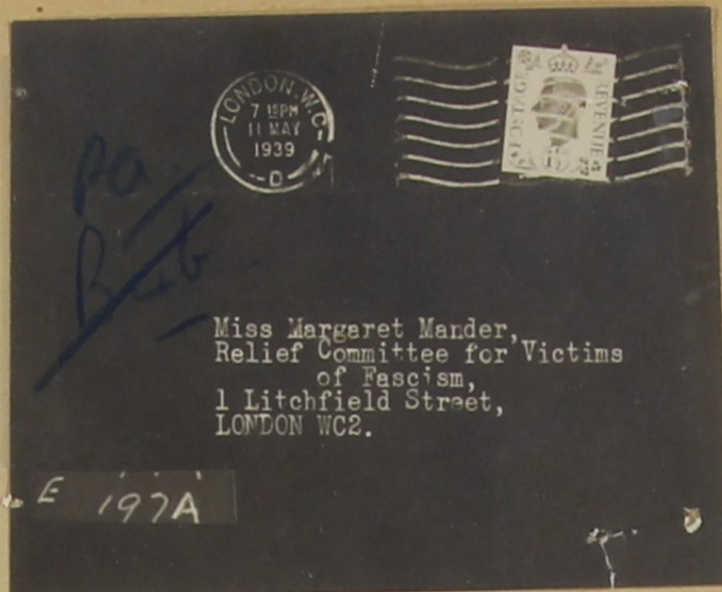
On 21.3.39 Hans Kahle wrote to Simon about the book that he was collecting information for. Simon was also arranging for Kahle to obtain a visa for France.

PF. 47192. Kahle. 9a.  
Original in.....dated.....21.3.39 ✓  
MGH. 28.3.39.

S. Form 31.



306a

1526  
16/1/39



OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## CONFIDENTIAL

TYPE OF CENSORSHIP

RECORD

Sea (S).  
Air (A).  
Land (L).

Mail (M)

Cable (C)

Telephone (T)

Registered No.

Serial No.

ANDRE SIMONE

31 AV. DEL RIO DE LA PIEDRA  
MEXICO, D.F.

TO:

NEW MASSES

MR. JOE STAROBIN  
461 FOURTH AVE.  
NEW YORK CITYTO: ~~F20~~ FOR  
INFORM'N/ACTION

22 DEC 1942

PSE RETAIN

B.3A. JAG

7000

LIST:

76

Date (or postmark if letter)

OCT. 25, 1942

To be photographed:

NO

To whom photograph is to be sent:

DISPOSAL  
ORIGINAL COMM  
CATION:

Relevant records:

NONE

For interoffice use by A. C.  
or D. C. only:

Station distribution:

BR

Held (H).

Released (R)

Condemned (C)

Returned  
to sender (RS)

Or sent with comment

Language: ENGLISH-FRENCH

Previously censored by: NONE

Division  
(or Section)

PRESS

Table

1

Examiner  
(Censor  
Cable)

2513

D. A. C.

2188

Exam.  
date

OCT. 28, 1942

Typing  
date

NOV OCT. 30, 1942

## COMMENT

## POLITICAL

ARTICLES ON RUDDOLF HESS AND ALFRED ROSENBERG SUBMITTED TO  
"NEW MASSES"Cover contains article on Rudolf Hess by Andre Simone, and  
article on Alfred Rosenberg by Rudolf Fuenfth. Contents include:

The article on Rudolf Hess traces his activities from 1923 to the present, connecting him directly with many Nazi crimes. Writer cites several as examples, among them the mass murder of Jews after the assassination in Paris of Ernst Von Rath, the uprising of the French Gargoules, the murder of Alexander of Yugoslavia, all of which he traces to interviews with Hess in Munich. Writer asserts that Hess' worst crime was the passing on to Hitler of Dr. Carl Haushofer's "GEOPOLITICS", a blueprint for world domination. From Haushofer's report on Japanese technique Hess also got the idea of the Fifth Column.

The article urges an immediate trial of Hess as proposed by the Soviet Govt. He says it "would stop Dr. Goebbels from poking fun upon Great Britain and the United States for their lack of resolution," and would have a salutary effect on the German people.

The article on Alfred Rosenberg traces his rise to prominence after his meeting with Hitler in 1923, and calls attention to his earlier role as a Czarist spy. It discusses his difficulties in his present post of Minister of conquered Russian territories, and concludes by saying that he has recently deposited a million dollars in a bank outside of Germany.

EXAMINER'S NOTE: Andre Simone is Otto Katz, reported to be C.G.P.U. agent in Mexico.

ENCLOSURE: 2 articles.

Submitted to: INF  
BRO  
M.I.S.  
IHB  
S.E.RC  
A/AC-2233  
10-28-42Form OC-8  
April 1, 1942.SPECIAL NOTICE.—The attach  
preserved. The information must be  
it be widely distributed, or copies m  
Director of Censorship.from private commu  
whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of  
legal proceedings or in any other public way wh

ASTER)

CONFIDENTIAL



Original in PF. 45807 Otten v.4. 156a.

6.6.64

3050

B.4b.

Otto KATZ: and - SIMON:

The following information was obtained by M/S  
from Carl OTTEN:

Otten professes to be very disturbed about the activities of Otto KATZ and he claims that the latest information which he has received is to the effect that KATZ is not to be trusted and is in reality a man who would work either for the G.P.U. or the Gestapo. OTTEN also states that the closest touch is maintained with KATZ by Sidney BERSTEIN, the English cinema magnate.

(We have several reports on BERNSTEIN whom I have always regarded as a much bigger figure in the communist world than is generally supposed.)

M.

19.4.39.

B.5b (M/S.

18/1  
21/4/35  
✓



PORT OF DOVER

COPY

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy).

## METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT KATZ,

7th day of April 1939.

Otto.

Otto KATZ, subject of Special Branch suspect

Reference to Papers.

book, left this port for Calais at 1-15 p.m. today.

300/WIR/32  
(M.I.5)He was accompanied by Ilse KATZ, aged 36,

who was travelling on a separate passport, and gave as his address whilst in the United Kingdom, the Howard Hotel, W.C.

Shasey P.S.

Submitted.

Inspector.

SUPERINTENDENT.

PR Kay / 17/4

Please join

M.P.-13763/10,000  
an./1938 w148BID  
13/4/39



3030

H.O. file K.694. Otto KATZ. (cont. from 259a)  
-----

H.O. file papers already in our file.

22.3.39. Mr. Ian Roy asked that Katz be allowed to land for a visit of 7 days to Miss Ellen Wilkinson.

Mr. Roy on 30.3.39. asked for extn. for KATZ and his wife until 15th April.

Minutes

4.4.39. Appln. for extn.

See Mr. Roy's note.

If this man is to be allowed to land whenever he wishes to come and to remain for the period he wishes to stay, there seems to be little point in retaining suspect index entry based on the circular dated 5.9.33. As there appears to be no objection to the desired extn. perhaps the whole case might be reviewed (when the appln. has been dealt with) as to future visits.

sgd. M.P.R. 31.3.39.

He and his wife hold Czech National ppts. valid to 1.3.44. They have French visas (Otto valid to 1.2.40, Ilse valid to 26.9.39). They also have visas for tempy. visits to USA dated 6.3.39 and valid for 12 months. There is therefore practically no risk in granting a short extension.

Extend to 15.4.39

Return passports to Mr. Roy.

To M.I.5 for obs.

13.4.39. File returned minuted as attached.



303a

Draft Minute for H.O. File K.694. Otto KATZ.

Our minute of 2.6.38. accurately describes KATZ's position. There is no question that he is still one of the principal agents of the Comintern in Paris. We have the strongest objection to any relaxation of the restrictions on KATZ's visits to this country. If it is impossible to refuse him leave to land, in accordance with the circular, we would still urge that he should be granted no extensions. I cannot find that he has given any adequate ground for wishing to stay in the U.K. on this occasion.

It is known that leading foreign communists in Paris are anxious about their position and that many of them are thinking of leaving France. We should oppose most strongly the grant of any concessions which might subsequently give KATZ the smallest pretext for prolonging his stay here indefinitely.

B.4b.  
11.4.39.

Rp 26

Kay'



S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy).

PORT OF DOVERCOPYMETROPOLITAN POLICE.Special Report }  
29 MAR 1935

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT.....

24th day of March 1935.

Otto KATZ &amp;

Else KATZ.

Reference to Papers.

300/WIR/32.

Otto KATZ, subject of Special Branch suspect book, accompanied by his wife <sup>PF 42279</sup> Else, arrived at this port at 5.p.m. today from Calais.

A discreet search of their baggage by H.M. Customs revealed nothing of interest, and later both left by boat train for London.

The description of these two persons and their position on the train was telephoned to Superintendent at 5-20.p.m.

Submitted.

*P. Richards* P.C.

*J. R. R. R.*  
Inspector.

*Chas. M. Smith*  
SUPERINTENDENT.

*31/3/35*



Original in SF 411/3 vol. 3. 101a.

411/3/B.4b.

20th February 1939.

Dear Major Vivian,

With reference to your letter CX/ , dated 10.2.39, you may like to see the attached copy of a letter sent to the Home Office by Mr. T.C. CATCHPOOL of the Society of Friends, which confirms your report regarding the foreign Communist leaders in the U.K.

The following extract from an intercepted letter from Ellen WILKINSON to Otto KATZ, dated November 18th, 1938, is also of interest in this connection:-

"About all the visas. I have been spending a lot of time getting the 25 Communist M.P.'s mostly Germans from Czecho into this country. They had been crossed off the list, and were not to get any visa. I have just got the permit for the whole lot, but it has been SOME job. Now I will try and get the Kisch group. But do tell him that it is not that he has to persuade ME. But that I have to persuade the authorities, and ~~to~~ my credit is getting exhausted. I will do my very best.

As regards the persons mentioned, T.R.H. BISHOP is in charge of Prospect Tours Ltd., and also acts as Secretary to W. GALLACHER. We have information about him crossing to France six times last year, but he does not appear to have been out of the country since last September. In September Ellen WILKINSON proposed to Otto KATZ that he should be given a post (£6. a week) in connection with the Parliamentary Committee for Spain, but this does not appear to have materialised.

.....

*This does not appear to be correct  
to this not G.S. Bishop mentioned  
in SF 427/va/1 Vol 55 1938-39*

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958. 1/10/01 2003



Mr. Otto Simon

3 bis Impasse Ste. Felicite

Paris. XV

W 618 H

3002

21.2.39

Dear Otto,

One way another I missed you when you were in London, you did not turn up for lunch at the House of Commons as arranged, and I did not get your message till I returned to my Hotel at midnight. I also got an intimation to attend a meeting in the H.O.C. on the Wednesday afternoon at which you were to be, and on going to the room arranged. I found the meeting had taken place on Tuesday.

I am writing to you about the immediate situation.

You said something about fares to Paris etc.

You can send that along. I

W 618 H

shall be glad, as I have undertaken to look after Aurora for some time she is arriving in London to-night and is then going on to my home to stay with my wife, and if you do anything in the way I have suggested it will all go towards making things more comfortable for Aurora.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

W. Dobson

W 618 H



S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy).

PORT OF DOVER.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

COPY

298a  
41664

21 FEB 1939

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT.....

18th

day of

February

193

9

Otto KATZ.

Reference to Papers.

300/WIR/32

In confirmation of telephone message to Superintendent at 1 p.m. this day re Otto KATZ, subject of Special Branch Suspect Book and correspondence 300/WIR/32 M.I.5-

This man left this port at 12.50 p.m. this day en route for Calais. He described himself as a writer and gave his address as: Howard Hotel, London. Katz appeared to be alone.

*L. D. Owen*  
P.C.

Submitted

*G. O. Rieley*  
Inspector.

*[Signature]*  
SUPERINTENDENT.

PA.

MSA



PORT OF DOVER.

B. No. 1 (Flimsy).

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

COPY

15 FEB 1939

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Metropolitan Police,

Scotland House,

SUBJECT

13th day of February 1939

Otto KATZ.

Reference to Papers.

500/WIR/32.

Otto KATZ, subject of Special Branch suspect book, arrived at this port at 5 pm. today from Calais, and later left by boat train due Victoria 7 pm. He was conditionally landed for seven days and gave his address as the Howard Hotel, London.

His position in train and description were telephoned to Superintendent at 5.20 pm.

A Burnside  
P.C.

Submitted.

J. O. Reilly  
Inspector.

*Th. Miller*  
Superintendent.

DA.

Please join





O.K. Simon, Esq.,  
3, Impasse Ste. Felicite,  
PARIS 15me,  
France.

W349H

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 50.

THE WHITEHALL LETTER.

The Anglo-Foreign Information Bureau, Ltd.,  
13, Queen Anne's Gate,  
London, S.W.1.

February 16th, 1939.

Tel: Abbey 7204.

STOCKTAKING IN EUROPE.

A Detente?

Outstanding among the impressions to be formed from the news of the week is one of plans postponed. But for certain positive information of military preparations continuing, to which reference is made below, it might be inferred that the democracies, by employing firmer tones in their public pronouncements, and by allowing it to be known that their military preparations are advancing at a brisk rate, had averted the threat of another power-blackmail which has seemed to be impending. But we believe that postponement, and not abandonment, is the more accurate description of the apparent detente, though one cannot exclude the encouraging possibility that a pause for thought might somehow be converted into prudent decision. That, however, has not yet been achieved.

Among the positive steps which seem to have contributed to a change in the atmosphere are:

President Roosevelt's statement to the Military Committee of the Senate - when he actually stated that the French army was America's first line of defence; that it was in America's interest that there should be no gaps in British and French equipment.

Mr. Chamberlain's flat statement that any threat to the vital interests of France would call forth the full support of Britain.

French Government statements that not an inch of French territory would be handed over in response to threats; that France would fight for Britain.

General Franco's statement that he wished to end the Spanish war without further assistance from Italy and Germany - including the operation of occupying the island of Minorca.

Anglo-French decisions to recognise General Franco, and to collaborate with him in reconstruction of Spain - to the obvious indignation and fury of the Dictators.

British inquiries in Rome as to the meaning of military increases and other activities in Libya, these not being in accord with the terms of the recently concluded Anglo-Italian Agreement.

In Germany.

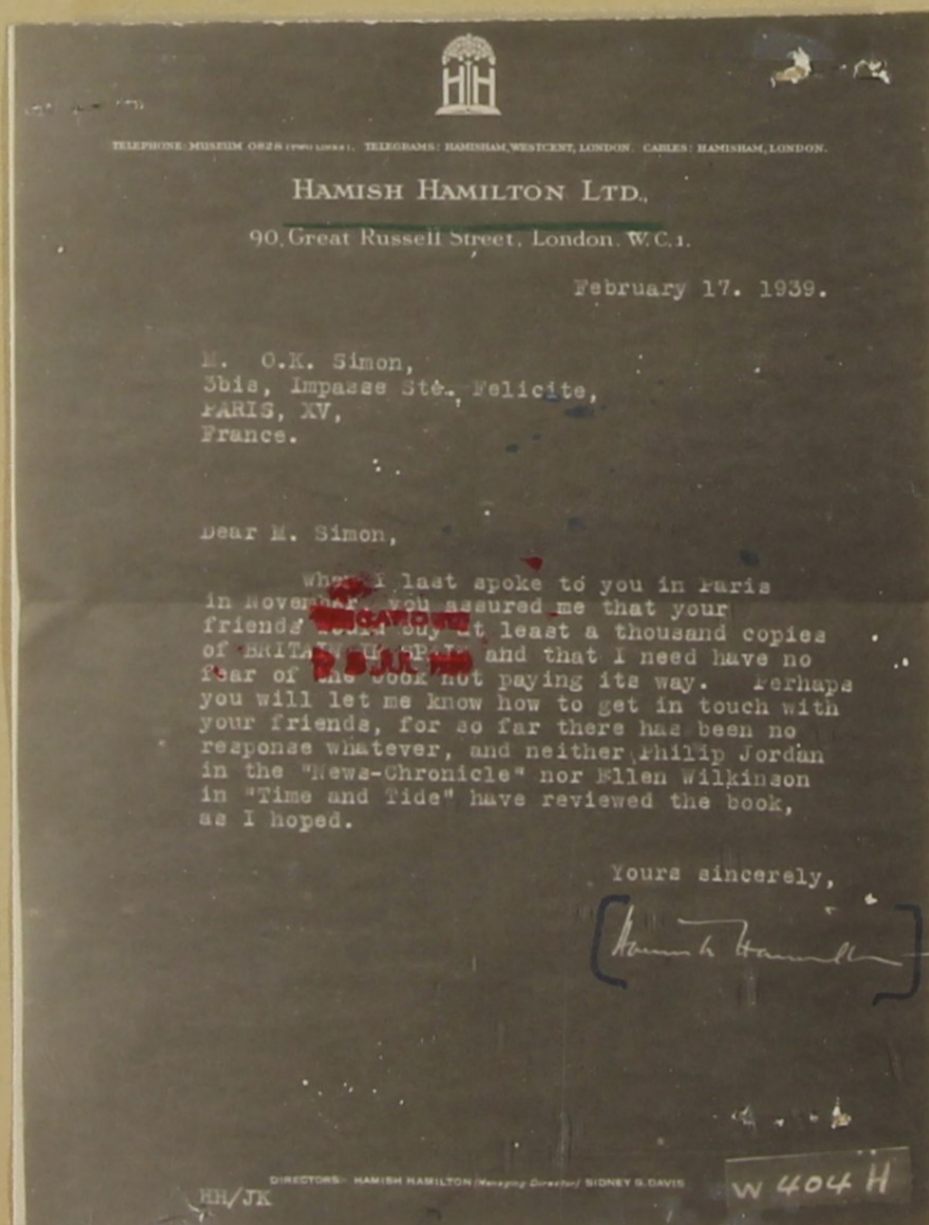
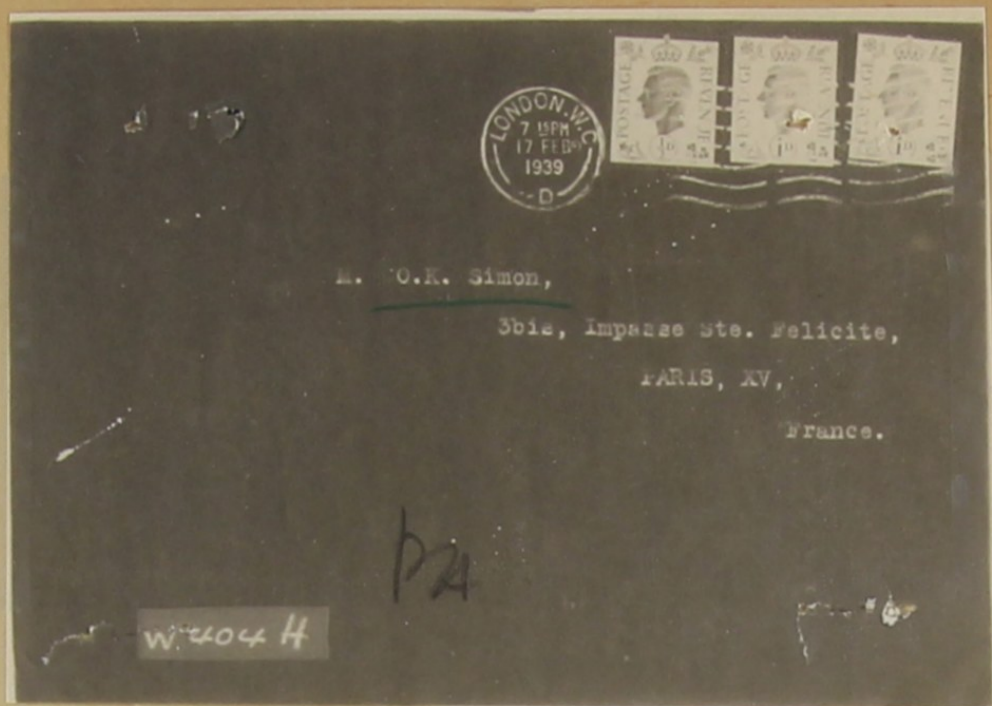
During the week it has been reported from Germany that aircraft production has been slowed down; that Herr Hitler is anxious to defer his own next military effort, or at least has decided against attempting any swift direct blow against the Western Powers, leaving it to Signor Mussolini to play out the next hand; that much attention is being directed to special measures, including increased labour control and new forms of co-operation between the Nazified Reichsbank, the Ministry of Economics and the Four Years Plan experts, to stimulate flagging exports.

It may also be argued that the very intensity of Nazi and Fascist anger against Britain and France for stepping in at the last moment to collaborate with General Franco just when he was thought to be well in the "axis" pocket, demonstrates that democratic diplomacy has scored an important success. But it is also well to know, and it is necessary to have in mind, that reports continue to reach the best-informed quarters in London that German mobilisation (predicted in Whitehall Letter No. 46 as likely to begin on February 15th) has actually started. It is now said to be the plan that a state of apparent preparedness should be reached by March 15th comparable with that shown to the world on September 15th, 1938. On this occasion, however, much more elaborate precautions are being taken to build up to this point with a measure of secrecy. It is even said that the German authorities





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P.F. 53297

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21/2/39



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propose to place all foreign newspaper correspondents under restraint when full mobilisation is decreed.

#### Balbo's Protest.

In a subsequent note we present certain information on the course of events in Italy, and it will not escape the attention of subscribers that the Ides of March might seem to hold some special significance for Rome. Of Italy, like Germany, it can be argued that the internal state of affairs should preclude the possibility that Signor Mussolini seriously contemplates pressing his demands upon France to the point of war. Here we may add what we believe to be the first authoritative sidelight which has become available on the course of the Fascist Grand Council, which reviewed the position at the beginning of this month. It seems that Marshal Balbo, Governor of Libya and one obvious claimant to the succession after Signor Mussolini, vigorously criticised the Duce's foreign policy, describing it as madness to challenge France when the positions in Abyssinia, and even in Libya, had not yet been consolidated.

#### Italian Preparations.

Yet it seems to be unquestionable that military preparations are in fact proceeding in Italy, with the same precautions against publicity which characterise those in Germany. It is said by reliable informants that these preparations are also timed to culminate in mid-March. It is observable, too, that the Earl of Perth, British Ambassador in Rome, when he called on Count Ciano this week to comment on these reports, got no real satisfaction from the Italian Foreign Minister, who admitted that the Libyan garrison was being augmented to 60,000 (the figure given in the last Whitehall Letter) and added that this number might be further increased to 70,000.

We mentioned last week the visit to Libya of Lt.-Gen. Udet, of the German Air Ministry, who was accompanied by a mechanised warfare expert from the War Ministry. In the meantime these visits have been supplemented by a similar tour conducted by General Lutze, Chief of the General Staff of the German Storm Troops. He has been inspecting Italian military organisations in Tripolitania, and visited the oasis of Ghadames, which lies on the Libyan-Tunisian frontier. At the Kufra oasis, near the Egyptian frontier visited by Gen. Udet's party, the Italians are reported to be sinking new wells and establishing aeroplane depots.

#### Naval Activity.

Italy has recalled two 7,000 ton cruisers from South America, although their programme, if completed, would have taken them on a good-will tour round the world, including a visit to Japan. It is possible that this move was made only when it was realised that a British fleet of 96 vessels will be assembled at Gibraltar from the 1st of March for the whole of next month, carrying out spring exercises. It had originally been the Admiralty's intention to hold these manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of Scapa Flow in the belief, it is understood, that exercises off the Spanish coast might be considered provocative in the present state of European affairs. The Government decided, however, that there were no grounds for thinking that such a consideration need be taken into account.

We have been able to confirm that a number of Italian submarines lately passed through the Suez Canal bound for ports in Italian East Africa, but it does not appear that the present Italian naval strength in those waters is in excess of what has been normal for some time past. As regards a possible threat to Jibouti, French preparations have been further strengthened by the arrival of several important naval vessels.

#### Against France.

The campaign in the Italian press against France has increased rather than decreased. It is reported in Berlin that a visit is expected there from a leading Italian statesman before the end of the month. This appears to coincide with news from Rome that Count Ciano will pay his promised visit to Warsaw on February 25th. Berlin seems to anticipate that the visitor from Rome will bring with him the text of Italy's demands on France, and it is also indicated that Italian troops will not be withdrawn from Spain until France has given satisfaction to Italy's "legitimate aspirations." Further Berlin states that Signor Mussolini, as already foreseen in this correspondence, will strongly press General Franco to join in a binding Italo-Spanish alliance in return for the services rendered to him by Italy throughout the Spanish war.

Should it prove that Count Ciano, is the visitor expected in Berlin, the fact may be significant in light of the view expressed in Whitehall Letter No. 46 that the younger Fascists are in increasing control of Italian policy, and find their natural affinities with such extreme Nazi leaders as Herr von Ribbentrop.

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A new Trade Agreement has just been concluded in Rome between Italy and Germany. Details are not yet available, but it is noteworthy that for sometime past Italy has had an adverse trade balance of 50% in her dealings with Germany. Italy relies largely on Germany for her coal supplies. The bulk of this has been sea-borne, but in the event of a war in which Italy and Germany could not control the North Sea and Atlantic lines of communication, all these supplies would have to be brought by rail. Expert observers question whether the two countries would have sufficient rolling stock available to keep Italy stocked for any long period in these circumstances.

#### Service Views.

The closest possible watch is being maintained on all developments by the appropriate staffs in London. While consideration has been given to the possibility, to which we have made past reference, that Italy will be allowed by Germany to challenge France single-handed (in the hope that thereby Britain will be induced to remain neutral) German assistance being confined to "non-intervention", another view is gaining more support in Service circles. It is that Germany would make no attempt to conceal her full military support of Italy and would at the same time take up a defensive attitude in Western Europe, thus releasing a great proportion of her forces for operations in Africa (probably mainly against Egypt.)

According to this estimate of the German theory, France, fully engaged in the south and east, would be unable to develop any important counter-operations against Germany on the "Maginot-Siegfried" frontier, while Britain, it is argued could be bullied into inaction by renewed threats of air bombardment. Such a thesis, if it actually exists, bears the stamp of the amateur militarists in Germany and Italy who now seek to impose their will upon the more experienced professional officers. The idea that a war of the type envisaged could be confined, so far as actual hostilities are concerned, to the African continent strikes the expert mind as absurd. In any event one may fairly assume that such risks would be run only after the attempt to obtain important concessions as the price of peace, under threat of force, had failed.

Even so the danger is one which neither London nor Paris overlooks. It adds importance to the conversations which have taken place (and it is hoped to develop after recognition of General Franco) on the possibility of Spanish ports and aerodromes being used as bases for operations against the western democracies. Apart from this the extent to which France can venture to denude her Pyrenees frontier of troops for use elsewhere must depend very largely on the degree of confidence she feels able to place in Spain's strict neutrality.

#### Spanish Timetable.

Beyond this presentation of the principal features of the news we shall not attempt this week to give any fresh estimation of the outlook. It is evident that both Dictators, and notably Signor Mussolini, have been angered by the turn of events. A nationalist Spain which might not be working hand in glove with Italy at the moment of supreme trial was not in the Italian calculations. True, Rome has never doubted that Spain faithful to its national characteristics, would wish eventually to be rid of all foreign interference. But it has also been the calculation that that stage would not be reached until somewhat later. Now the working of the Spanish timetable again assumes a special importance.

While Dr. Negrin may calculate that his turn might come again if he can maintain resistance until Italo-French hostilities break out, for France and Britain it has become more important to see the war declared ended and the totalitarian forces, and their independent commanders, sent home. It seems to be believed in London and Paris that this is what General Franco desires. Most interesting feature of the next phase will be to discover whether General Franco has the power to carry that wish into effect, and how long the operation will take. Further, we are left to speculate whether the Duce's irritation against France and Britain will lead him to greater moderation or drive him to greater excesses.

#### M. BONNET'S DIPLOMACY.

At the moment when France and Britain are opposing the firmest front they have yet shown to the impending demands of the Dictators - apparently with a certain measure of success, if it is believed that "Axis" plans have been undergoing some modification - it is a curious feature that the effect is being minimised by unofficial French visitors to Rome and Berlin representing that they speak for M. Bonnet, French Foreign Minister. Last week we gave some details of the visit to Rome of M. Beaudoin, general manager of the Bank of Indo-China. Now we have to note the more unfortunate visit to Berlin of M. Fernand de Brinon, vice-president of the Franco-German Association.

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M. Beaudoin's talks in Rome do not seem to have had any serious effect, beyond raising possible hopes in Count Ciano's mind as to the extent to which France could be blackmailed, and undermining the authority of M. Francois-Poncet, the French Ambassador, M. de Brinon, on the other hand, seems to have cut the ground from under the feet of M. Coulondre, the Ambassador in Berlin. Well-informed observers declare that M. de Brinon assured Herr von Ribbentrop that M. Coulondre had not been accurately informed when he told the German Foreign Minister that M. Beaudoin had not been authorised to negotiate possible French concessions to Italy. As a result Herr von Ribbentrop recalled the French Ambassador and a most unpleasant interview took place following which M. Coulondre left immediately for Paris to inquire whether he or M. de Brinon was the accredited Ambassador of France in Berlin. M. Coulondre is believed to have told M. Bonnet frankly that this state of affairs could not continue.

#### FRANCO RECOGNITION.

Having obtained unanimous assent of the Cabinet to the recognition of General Franco as the head of the legal Government in Spain, the Prime Minister and Viscount Halifax are at this moment waiting for the psychological opportunity to give effect to the decision by formal announcement. Mr. Chamberlain is not disposed to insist on any conditions as the price of recognition, although any action by the British Government will no doubt be governed by the hope that General Franco will maintain the integrity of Spain, inasmuch as he will not allow any part of the territory under his control to be used as a base for hostile operations against Britain or France, and will adhere strictly to a policy of neutrality.

Sir Robert Hodgson went back to Burgos last week-end with instructions to use every opportunity to impress on the Franco Government Britain's desire to assist in the speedy restoration of normal conditions in Spain, and not least the feeding and care of the war-weary population. When, after recognition, relations between Britain and General Franco's Government have been established on a normal basis the question of a reconstruction loan will arise. By means of a British loan Mr. Chamberlain would seek to secure economic benefits for Britain as well as political friendship.

#### Resistance Waning.

Some sections of the British Government - and Mr. Chamberlain must not be excluded - would have liked events to have followed faster upon Britain's de facto recognition of General Franco's superiority after the Nationalist occupation of the Island of Minorca. This was assisted materially by the despatch of H.M.S. Devonshire to Port Mahon with Count San Luis, General Franco's plenipotentiary, aboard. But the understandable stubbornness of Dr. Juan Negrin, the Republican Premier, who may or may not have been animated by political as well as strategic beliefs, compelled delay which could not be overcome despite urgent advice from both British and French Governments.

At the time of writing news from Paris suggests that resistance of the Republicans is fast ebbing because Dr. Negrin's stubbornness is not shared by his colleagues. Senor Manuel Azana has apparently refused to go back to Central Spain to assume his position as President of the Republican State. His reasons for refusing are said to have been his conviction that final overwhelming defeat was certain, following further unnecessary suffering and bloodshed. Ever since Mr. Chamberlain decided to intervene reports have accumulated in Whitehall that the people of Madrid and Valencia are losing their enthusiasm for the struggle. The great numbers in which refugees from Catalonia are recrossing the frontier in Nationalist territory seems to confirm this view.

The end of the Spanish war has, in the past, been a definite point in the Chamberlain appeasement programme. Although Mr. Chamberlain's attitude towards the principal actors in the European scene has certainly altered, there is no indication that his faith in his policy of a settlement of all problems by conference discussion has waned in the least. This was clearly indicated in the concluding paragraphs of the Government's Defence White Paper which said "His Majesty's Government deeply deplore the need for the expenditure of these vast sums on armaments. They have already indicated that, when other nations are prepared to consider some arrangement for limitation of armaments, this country will be prepared to play its part....."

#### Budget Burdens.

The size of the 1939-40 arms programme which, including £42,000,000 for civilian defence, is to cost £580,000,000 indicates the mighty burden which Britain is shouldering. Half the Budget expenditure in the coming financial year will be on armaments and civil defence measures, and the peak year of the programme does not occur until 1940-41. By doubling the borrowing powers, which

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are now to be fixed at £800,000,000, it is obvious that an increasing proportion of the expenditure is to be met by loan. Although this will be the case, subscribers must not assume that, because borrowing is to be heavier, there will be no increase in income tax in the new Budget. Treasury orthodoxy has not changed with Chancellors. Sir John Simon will most certainly follow the Chamberlain tradition and put more burdens on the Budget. If income tax does not rise as high as 6/- in the £ in the coming Budget, it will in the next, for the simple reason that, without arms limitation being agreed on in the next twelve months, expenditure will be much larger than £580,000,000 in 1940-41.

Naval tonnage under construction in 1939 will be little short of five times greater than it was in 1935. In the last twelve months aircraft output has been doubled, and soon will be trebled and, without arms limitation, it will be quadrupled. The Government says that it "is inevitable that this country should continue to take the steps necessary, in the light of present developments, for its own protection and for the discharge of responsibilities elsewhere," and adds "they are confident that the people of this country will be ready to bear the heavy burden involved," which can mean nothing less than a hint of new taxation.

#### GENERAL ELECTION.

##### Mr. Chamberlain's "No."

Further to our note in last week's Letter about General Election prospects, the Prime Minister has refused to budge from his original attitude. He will not agree to a General Election before the Autumn of this year, unless there is an unforeseen change in the situation.

#### HUNGARY.

##### Dr. Imredy's Fall.

Though Herr Hitler is holding his hand in the Ukraine for the time being, a new South Eastern Europe is beginning to take shape. Since the War there has been a change in the mentality of the Danubian peoples. They have acquired self-confidence and self-respect and they will not now look on quietly while the new Germany steps into the shoes of the old Austria. Nowhere has this change of feeling been more marked than in Hungary. Dr. Imredy's Government, having survived a parliamentary defeat, has now bowed to hostile public opinion, and has resigned. Questions of internal policy have had important bearing on its resignation, but the main cause is to be sought in Germany's sharp refusal to countenance Hungary's further territorial claims.

Hungary remembers only too well that she was the catspaw of Germany in the Near East before the War and she is not prepared to revert to her old position. She has, of course, grievances against both Roumania and Yugoslavia, but these are countries to which she can talk, whereas Germany only tells her to keep quiet and do what she is told. She is there - moving diplomatically away from Germany and towards her old enemies. It is significant that the Hungarian Minister was present at the "hunting party" at which King Carol and Prince Paul agreed on the heads of their new policy.

#### ROUMANIA.

##### Iron Guard Suppression.

That policy aims at clearing up the domestic situation in both countries so as to give no handle to German and Italian intrigues. The object is the same, but the methods to be pursued are quite different, largely because King Carol is sitting on a throne, whereas Prince Paul is keeping a throne warm for a future occupant. King Carol's method is to construct a one party semi-totalitarian state centred upon himself. He is thus entering on the path which both King Alexander and Dr. Dolfuss trod before him. Their fate is before his eyes and he is seeking to avoid their mistakes.

Alexander's error lay in attempting to impose on Yugoslavia a unity which it did not really possess. King Carol's single party, on the contrary, recognizes minorities and offers them a position which the Hungarians have already accepted. Even the Jews are to be recognised --- a step which reverses the general trend of Roumanian policy, and shows King Carol's anxiety to enjoy the good-will of the Western Powers. On the other hand there is to be no attempt at compromise with the Roumanian Nazis. They are to be stamped out, and the campaign against the Iron Guard is being driven forward vigorously by the new Minister of the Interior, M. Calinescu, who knows that his opponents would have as little regard for his own life as they would for the King's. Dolfuss died because Nazism existed in Austria side by side with his own rival organization. The warning is



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clear, and is being very carefully observed.

The success of this effort to destroy Roumanian Nazism will probably turn on the attitude of the Germans in Roumania -- the so-called Saxon settlements which were planted centuries ago against the Turks and which have retained their language and culture to this day. Five years ago these Germans were Nazis almost to a man, but as Roumanian governments have always respected their privileges, they did not rally to the Iron Guard and are now negotiating with the King.

#### In Search of Trade.

The new regime is already busy regulating its trade relations. It is significant that British, German and Italian trade missions have been almost simultaneously visiting Bucharest, significant because a country whose principle exports are wheat and oil, becomes most worth courting when there is danger of war. In his Mansion House Speech King Carol appealed for closer business relations between Britain and Roumania with a frankness unusual in a sovereign, and in his conversations with British Ministers he indicated that he would be glad to see the British Government following the lead of the French Government in helping to strengthen his country's defences. The construction of a naval base on the Black Sea was specifically mentioned. King Carol was told that while Britain would be happy to see a strong Roumania she was not disposed to extend her political commitments to South-Eastern Europe. It was, however, indicated to him that in this country the Government did not interfere with private enterprise. The Sempill Mission is the result of those talks. It is understood that Lord Sempill represents a powerful group of British industrialists which includes Lord Nuffield.

#### JUGOSLAVIA.

Prince Paul is now finally breaking with the tradition which he inherited from his murdered uncle and which he has always rather half-heartedly retained. Dr. Stoyadinovitch was under no illusions as to the conditions under which a unitary and totalitarian Yugoslavia could be kept in being. It would have to rely on support from its totalitarian neighbours, particularly from Germany, with which Yugoslavia possessed a common frontier after the absorption of Austria into the Reich. The recent election, however, revealed the full weakness of the Serb Prime Minister's position at home, and Prince Paul, who has for some time been in touch with Dr. Machehek, is now seeking to come to terms with the Croats.

An interim Government is now in power, which, if all goes well, will order new elections as a preliminary to the reconstruction of Yugoslavia on federal lines. The principal elements in the State, the Serbs, the Croats, the Slovenes and the Moslems, will enjoy under the new scheme a considerable degree of local autonomy and the main departments of the central Government will be Trade, Defence and Foreign Affairs.

#### Benefit to France.

An administration engaged in feeling its way to a programme of this kind cannot indulge in external adventure, and Yugoslavia's present desire is for peace in Europe or, if the worst happens, to remain neutral. Nevertheless, Dr. Stoyadinovitch's departure from office has had political effect. His policy of friendship with the dictators enabled him to assure Mussolini that Yugoslavia would not oppose Italy's policy and that there was no need for Italian garrisons to be maintained on Italy's north-eastern frontier. That assurance has lapsed with the resignation of the man who gave it and Mussolini can no longer denude his Yugoslav frontier of troops. If Italy is really considering going to war against France this change in her eastern situation is important, for it affects the total of forces at her disposal for use in other areas.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

##### German Irritation.

While elections for the Ruthenian Diet were being conducted under the supervision of "Ukrainian Storm Troopers", on Nazi lines (a vote for or against the Government), with German delegations present at many of the polling booths, German irritation against the Prague Government became more pronounced this week. Most obvious is the German insistence that Czechoslovakia ought to hasten to liquidate all pre-Munich ties and commitments to foreign countries and to replace such treaties by adherence to the anti-Comintern Pact. This demand is aimed not only at the Czecho-Soviet treaty but also at the much older treaty of assistance between Czechoslovakia and France. If Prague insists on holding aloof from the positive anti-Moscow alignments she is expected by Berlin at least to adopt an absolute neutrality.

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Berlin is also complaining that Prague is dilatory in realigning her economic policy; that no steps have yet been taken towards handing over to Germany a portion of the gold reserves (on a per capita basis having regard for the territorial surrenders of last October); that Sudeten goods should be able to compete in the Czech market; that Czech currency circulating in the transferred territories should be redeemed. A more threatening tone is creeping into German comments on such matters, it being said that the will of Germany must be obeyed and that whatever steps may be necessary to achieve this object will be taken by Berlin.

Meantime Germany has found a good friend in M. Mach, chief of the Propaganda Department of the Slovak Government. He has publicly proclaimed the need for cleansing Slovakia of all Jews and Czechs, for establishing a fully independent Slovakia and for developing the closest possible commercial relations with Germany. His Government has now suppressed a leading group of Czech newspapers and periodicals, on the ostensible grounds that they threatened the preservation of law and order, but actually, it is reported, in response to pressure from those anxious to complete the break-up of the former Czechoslovak State.

Since the Ruthenian elections were being conducted openly on the programme of fighting for Ukrainian independence, the Polish Government took the precaution of stationing troops along the frontier. There has in recent weeks been sufficient real trouble in the Polish Ukraine - although few reports have been allowed to reach the outer world - to justify apprehensions in Warsaw.

#### POLAND.

Count Ciano's visit to Warsaw should be of interest from two points of view. Italy strongly supports the Polish-Hungarian endeavour to achieve a common frontier by eliminating Slovakia and Ruthenia from the map - an objective successfully barred by Germany. While the indications of the last two or three weeks have pointed to a postponement of the German drive to the East - or rather a transformation from the method of military pressure into that of economic penetration - certain of the Balkan and Central European countries in the last few days have shown signs of returning anxiety lest the original plan may be revived, if not immediately, at least a few months hence.

#### German Tension.

The impression has been left in Warsaw, following Herr von Ribbentrop's visit, that the atmosphere of renewed German-Polish friendship which it was sought to create, was not entirely genuine in character. They feel that Poland, like Italy, will be used by Hitler for just so long as it suits his purpose. It is also observable that the Polish authorities are conducting an extensive investigation into the activities of German minority organisations in the western districts of Poland. A number of arrests have been made in the Polish Corridor. It is alleged that these German organisations, such as sports clubs, co-operative societies, and even religious groups, were preparing for subversive action against the Polish state and to agitate for a return of the Western Provinces to Germany. It is also said that "disgusting and unprintable" references to the late Marshal Pilsudski were made at a public meeting arranged by the German Eastern Association at a town in German Silesia last week.

#### Postponed Conference.

Nor has it apparently been possible to reach any agreement between Warsaw and Berlin on the question of racial minorities. Thousands of Polish Jews, who recently were expelled from Germany, continue to live in miserable circumstances on the German-Polish frontier. The Conference which was to have met in Berlin this week to discuss all such questions has been postponed.

Secondly Count Ciano's talks in Warsaw could throw light on the larger outlook. Observers in Warsaw report their view that should Germany and Italy miscalculate the bluff they are preparing against France, and thus find themselves at war, Poland would not miss the opportunity to stab Germany in the back, and hope to see her services in this direction rewarded by the Western Powers. It is said in Berlin that the Germans are alive to this possibility. As to the possibility of Poland accepting Soviet help if she found herself at war with Germany; it is said in Warsaw that there would be no hesitation in receiving as large a Soviet air force as Moscow chose to detail for this purpose, but the old opposition to allowing a Russian army on to Polish soil remains unchanged.

#### Relations with France.

The apparent approach of another period of acute tension, and the circumstances, some of which are enumerated in this letter, have led to a continuing improvement in Franco-Polish relations during recent weeks. It is an unfortunate feature that Colonel Beck and M. Bonnet, the respective Foreign Ministers,

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